UNITED STATES

Christian Commission

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

1863

SECOND ANNIVERSARY.

Held in the American Academy of Music, Philadelphia,

THURSDAY EVENING, JAN. 28, 1864.

The Academy was densely crowded, hundreds standing. The demand for tickets (which were gratuitous) was perhaps unparalleled in the history of such meetings.

The banner of the Commission, which is the banner of the nation consecrated to God, was gracefully draped over every available surface, profusely and elegantly decorating the magnificent building.

The Chairman of the Commission presided. The services were introduced by singing the hymn commencing

"Lord, while for all mankind I pray.'

The Germania Orchestra, and a choir led by Professor Bower, added much interest.

The Chairman read a letter from Governor Curtin. Rev. Dr. Musgrave led the great assembly in prayer.

Rev. Dr. Watson read from the Scriptures, Matthew 25 : 31–46.

Letters were read from Secretary Seward, Major-General Meade, Admiral Dupont, Secretary Chase, and Rt. Rev. Wm. Bacon Stevens, D.D.

An abstract of the Annual Report for 1863 was submitted. A statement from Rev. Bishop E. S. Janes, D.D., and addresses from Rev. W. J. R. Taylor, D.D., Rev. D. C. Eddy, D.D., Rev. E. N. Kirk, D.D., General Briggs, and Major-General Howard, were then made.

A beautiful and richly bound Bible was presented to the Chairman, by Rev. Dr. Nevin, on behalf of the clergymen of Philadelphia.

The interest was deep and intense to the close. The vast assembly joined in the Doxology, and was dismissed by Rev. Dr. Brainerd with the Apostolic Benediction.

GREAT NATIONAL MEETING,

In the Hall of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.,

TUESDAY EVENING, FEB. 2, 1864.

Hon. Hannibal Hamlin, Vice-President of the United States, presided, and made the opening address. Prayer was offered by Rev. F. F. Brown. A statement was made by the Chairman of the Commission, and addresses by Rev. R. J. Parvin, Rev. Geo. J. Mingins, Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Speaker of the House, and General Martindale

Letters were read from Attorney-General Edward Bates, Major-General Silas Casey, General Patrick, Provost-Marshal-General, and Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, followed by remarks from Senator Sherman of Ohio, and also from Chaplain McCabe, introducing the Battle Hymn of the Republic, which he sang with great power. Colonel Powel, just from Libby, made a few remarks, and at the special request of the President of the United States, who was present, the Battle Hymn was repeated, amidst unbounded enthusiasm.

For interest and power, it is believed that this meeting is unparalleled in the history of the Capitol.

At half-past eleven o'clock the assembly joined in the Doxology, and was dismissed with the benediction by Rev. Dr. Phelps.

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See page 234.

UNITED STATES

CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,

FOR THE

ARMY AND NAVY.

FOR THE YEAR 1863.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL, 1864.

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Rev. W. E. BOARDMAN, Secretary, 11 Bank Street.

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Mz 14344

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SO FAR AS REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

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THE PACIFIC COAST.

No Christian Commission organization has been reported as yet from the Pacific coast.

Rev. A. E. Kittredge, of San Francisco,
Rev. George J. Mingins, of Philadelphia,
Rev. Robert Patterson, D.D., of Chicago,
Mrs. Col. S. M. Bowman,

have been authorized to represent the interests of the Commission on the Pacific, organize, collect money, and do whatever else may be judged wise and best.

AN EXPLANATION.

The Treasurer's Account, page 271, embraces the work of the U. S. Christian Commission in the general field, and gives the amount expended severally for

1. Hospital Supplies.
2. Publications.
3. Chapels, Tents, Wagons, &c.
4. Work in the Field.
5. Outfit and Expenses of Delegates.
6. Freight, Drayage, Labor, &c.
7. Salaries at Central Office and of Permanent Agents in the Field.
8. Incidental Expenses, Postage, Advertising, &c.
9. Expenses of Meetings and Agents.

The particular work of each Branch and Army Committee does not appear in this account, but is given to the public in their own several localities.

REPORT.

The year opened with great promise for the work of the United States Christian Commission. It closes with every promise more than fulfilled. And the indications for the coming year are those of a work for our defenders, our country and our God, of still greater extent, interest and power.

The favor of God and the people has steadily advanced with our increasing work and its wants. The Government Railway and Telegraph Companies, and commanders in the field, have given us great and generous facilities. Ministers and laymen have volunteered as unpaid delegates in increasing numbers. Ladies in their "Aid Societies" and "Christian Commissions" have plied their skill with ceaseless assiduity, and shown enterprise by gathering money and stores from their willing neighbors. Little girls of the Sabbath schools, by their "housewives" and letters have helped materially to comfort the soldiers. The churches have contributed with cheerfulness, frequency and liberality,—willing it would seem to have Thanksgiving days, with collections on each for the Commission, come as often as God's blessing on the valor of our soldiers and seamen can give the President occasion to proclaim them, and to seize every opportunity between to keep our treasury supplied. Merchant and railway princes, bankers and brokers, invest from time to time in our stock, some of them frequently and largely. The best hotels in several of our large cities have opened their doors to delegates and members of the Commission free of charge. Welcome remembrances from Americans abroad, and cheering tokens from others in other lands, though no appeal to them has been made, are occasionally received. Missionaries in Turkey, China, India, Labrador, &c., have sent us money, asking to have "fellowship" with us in our

"great and good work." Our soldiers, singly and by companies and regiments, add to their universal, "God bless the Christian Commission," their cash contributions, *most welcome, but never solicited*, in growing number and amount. On shipboard, our men in the forecastle have met to send us, from the Gulf and from the Pacific, their united voice over the waters to cheer us, and their liberal contributions to aid us; and the officers on quarter-deck have joined with them to swell the volume of both cheer and aid. The American Bible Society has continued to pour into our channels, without money and without parsimony, its ample streams of the waters of the river of life. Tract Societies, Publishing Boards and Houses, and proprietors of religious periodicals, have favored the Commission by large grants and generous reduction of prices, and editors of both religious and secular journals have published information freely, and given the great weight of their warm and frequent commendations to the cause of the Commission.

Thus, we have been sustained, supplied and cheered on in our warfare of peace and battles of love; and God has given us the arduous work and unbounded luxury of such a service for Him, for our country, and for our soldiers, as seldom falls to the lot of mortal men. Wounded heroes on the battle-field have been rescued from death and given back to the nation and to their families. Those wearied, worn and exhausted, on long marches and from hard fighting, have been refreshed and saved from perishing. Bread has been dealt to the hungry, clothing to the needy, medicine to the sick, delicacies to the convalescing, and cheer to all. Prisoners at Richmond, victims of hunger, cold, vermin and filth, have been relieved and supplied with food, clothing, medicine and reading matter. Men in the field, far away from church and church privileges, and from the press and its issues, have had the Gospel preached to them, and Testaments, books, papers and tracts given them upon Gospel terms. Those long absent from home have been brought nigh in many ways, by visits of delegates fresh and frequent from home circles; by tokens of love, transmitted from home to the soldiers and from soldiers to their homes; by thousands, distributed every week, of their own family papers, familiar as household faces; by free writing tables, opened at each station, accessible to all, and well

supplied with pens, paper, ink and envelopes—stamps, too, if needed, without money or price; and by thousands of letters written for disabled soldiers by delegates themselves, connecting the tent and the hearth by a "a living electric chain," as one of our noble workers has styled the Christian Commission. The cause of our imperilled country has been strengthened in the field by saving and strengthening our defenders, and at home by toning up public sentiment, kindling patriotism and piety, and encouraging faith in God. Religion in its purity and power, and in its breadth of application to the whole nature of man, body and soul, and in its beneficent freeness and unbounded catholicity, has been exemplified in living and grand illustration. Many prodigals have been led to return, many soldiers to enlist under the banner of Christ, many jewels set in the crown of our King, many aching hearts and anxious homes gladdened by tidings from afar of the dead made alive and of the lost found; there has been joy in the presence of God over many repenting sinners, and the song of the heavenly host has been swelled by these new trophies and triumphs on these new and strange fields.

In all these things, the statistics gathered show a fivefold increase during the year, and we hope and believe that, in all that which we never can know upon earth, the heavenly record, when opened on the great day, will show an increase manifold more.

The statistics of the year will be embodied in this report toward the close. Special attention is invited to them.

The Treasurer's account there given will show specifically how the money received has been appropriated, and cannot fail to impress those who are accustomed to observe the cost of conducting great enterprises of public interest and general benevolence with surprise, that so large an agency should be conducted at a cost in salaries and expenses so very small.

The tabular statement (given in the same place) of *stores distributed and delegates sent*, if scanned, will exhibit the large proportion—far more than half of all the contributions and services given to the Commission—that has been devoted to bodily relief and benefit. This and the two tables following, each embraces and sets forth severally the work of the various branches of the Commission and of the Central Office, respectively and collectively.

To place the ascertained results of the year under the eye at a glance, we present here the following

General Summary for the Year 1863.

Cash received at the Central Office and Branch Offices during the year,	$358,239 29
Value of Stores donated,	385,829 07
Value of Scriptures contributed by American Bible Society,	45,071 50
Value of Scriptures contributed by British and Foreign Bible Society,	1,677 79
Value of Railroad facilities contributed,	44,210 00
Value of Telegraph facilities contributed,	9,390 00
Value of Delegates' services,	72,420 00
Total,	$916,837 65

Cash expended in purchase of Stores, Publications, Expenses of Delegates, &c.,	$265,211 28
Balance on hand at Central Office, 1st January, 1864,	43,547 41
Balance on hand at Branch Offices, 1st January, 1864,	49,480 60
	$358,239 29

Christian Ministers and Laymen commissioned to minister to men on Battle-fields and in Camps, Hospitals and Ships, during year,	1,207
Copies of Scriptures distributed,	465,715
Hymn and Psalm Books distributed,	371,859
Knapsack Books distributed,	1,254,591
Library Books distributed,	39,713
Magazines and Pamphlets distributed,	120,492
Religious Newspapers distributed,	2,931,469
Pages of Tracts distributed,	11,976,722
Silent Comforters, &c., distributed,	3,285
Boxes shipped to the field or shipped at home,	12,648

The increasing work of the Commission is drawing heavily upon the Treasury from day to day. The balance on hand is small compared with the prospective demands.

To understand the causes of the amazing success of the Christian Commission, *the necessity for such an agency* must be considered, and *its foundation principles* must be weighed. To gain a vivid impression of its working, its *main centres of supply* at home and *most important fields of action* along the immense war-belt which encircles the rebellion, must be visited in imagina-

tion at least, and withal we must carry with us through all our course the most profound sense of the providence of God, which prepared the church and the men for the work, led to the organization of the Commission, secured the adoption of its principles, called forth the sympathies and liberality of the people, pressed the work forward in successive stages of rapid expansion, and made each great event of the war and each new phase of affairs a new impulse of progress.

THE NECESSITY FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

May be seen at a glance, though it could not be measured in an age. Hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers had gone to the war. Their hearts, of course, turned toward home for sympathy and relief in their privations, hardships, and perils. Our hearts, of course, went as strongly out after them, longing to give them abundantly the sympathy and relief they craved.

It was not enough that the large provision of the Government should be supplemented by hospital supplies through surgeons and nurses. This, however abundant, would leave the great want still unmet. This want was that of the "living electric chain between the hearth and the tent," which could be met only by *persons from home*, with *hearts* to sympathize, *tongues* to cheer, and *hands* to relieve; and the same persons returning, with their intelligence, their messages, letters, and tokens for the waiting ones at home. Stores, too, were wanted, not for surgeons and nurses, except in great emergencies; they could be supplied by Government—and never did any other government show greater readiness or ability to do it—but to fill the hands of the delegates from home with ample means of aid and comfort direct wherever they should find suffering or need.

The story of David's visit to the army of King Saul in his war with the Philistines illustrates the case.

There were eight brothers,—four followed the king to the war; David, the youngest, returned from the army, and was keeping the sheep. A great battle was pending, which would decide the fate of the nation. The heart of the home went after the sons and brothers in the field, and after the prospects

and welfare of the army fighting to save the country. So Jesse, the father, took David from the flocks and sent him to "look how it fares" with his brothers, and "take their pledge." *Not empty-handed either.* "Take," said the father, "for thy brethren an ephah of parched corn" (a very nice thing for them in the field), "and these ten loaves, and run with them to thy brethren, and carry these ten cheeses to the captain of their thousand." The colonel was not forgotten.

The want met in this case was that of a delegate to go full-handed from the home to the field, who should in due time return again to the home with pledges from the absent ones; and, in passing, it must not escape us that the visit of the delegate in this instance was God's pivot of Israel's preservation; for it was on that occasion that the boasting Philistine champion was slain, the Philistine army defeated and destroyed, and Israel saved.

This want of full-handed delegates from home is intensified a hundred fold when a great battle is fought. Day after day the wounded lie in agony and blood, and, in the heart-sickness of hope deferred, await the slow relief or the swifter release by death, for want of just that personal service which we at home are abundantly able and willing to give, if there is any way to do it.

Again: there were other and greater perils than those of life or limb to be guarded against, and other and greater wants than those of the body to be supplied. Our brothers and sons were away from the church as well as the home, and exposed to dangers of the camp as well as the battle-field, and withal they were running the extra hazards of war, walking daily on the brink of death, a step only between, and eternity beyond. The Gospel, in its power of salvation for time and eternity, was the greatest want of all. Therefore, the urgency was for messengers of the *church and the home*, with the bread of life in one hand, and relief for suffering in the other. This the chaplaincy could not have met, even if it had been kept constantly full.

Again: for its purpose the governmental provision of chaplain service was ample in the enactment—a chaplain for every regiment—but wholly insufficient in the application, not more than one to five remaining in some large armies, and only one to two

in those best supplied, while the church is abundantly willing to supply this lack of service by sending its ministers from time to time, fresh and frequent from home.

Again: these hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers are in the field where there is a famine of reading matter (that is good, with great temptation from that which is bad); and they feel this the more because accustomed to the greatest abundance and variety. For this the Government makes no provision. Publishing Societies and Boards, at best, could give only limited relief, restricted in variety, excellent in quality, to their own publications. Yet the religious press at home teems with abundance and variety, and would gladly give one-half to have the whole sent to the army and navy.

The one necessity to meet these great and various wants, therefore, was that of an agency which should command the confidence of the Government and people, secure all necessary facilities, select and send the proper persons to the proper places in proper numbers and at proper times, gather and send the requisite stores and publications, systematize and direct the labors and distributions of the delegates sent, and duly report all to the public.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

Are as broad as the church and the nation, and as old as the Gospel and civil society, and yet in their embodiment in an organized national agency, and in their application upon the scale of armies in active service, numbering nearly a million of men, and extending along a war line of three thousand miles, and of a navy comprising hundreds of vessels, with 35,000 men afloat and ashore, they are as new as the Commission.

I. CATHOLICITY.

II. NATIONALITY.

The Church of Christ of various names united in behalf of the men of every State gone to the war—a new thing under the sun!

These principles in combination, guarantee freedom from sectional favoritism in distribution or sectarian influence in teaching, and give breadth of resource for supply at home and power of equalization in application to those in the field. By their action,

ministers and others are enlisted from different denominations, stores gathered from all the people, and publications secured from the religious press, and all are sent where and when they are needed, without flooding one part to the neglect of another, whilst the defenders of the nation from every State and of every denominational preference are cared for, without partiality.

III. VOLUNTARINESS.

This is not new. It was old in the days of our Saviour and his apostles. Their example, however, gave it a new and heavenly lustre, never equalled before nor since eclipsed, and still undimmed by the dust of centuries, the rust of ages, or the rubbish of infidelity.

It is, however, new and wonderful in this new example, embracing all the members of the Commission and its numerous branches, with their chief executive officers, offices and storerooms, the regulated freedom of 20,000 miles of railway, 20,000 miles of telegraph, and of all Government vessels, the services of more than fifteen hundred Christian ministers and laymen, and a large part of the immense supplies distributed, all on the principle, *freely received, freely given.*

IV. COMBINATION OF BENEFITS FOR BODY AND SOUL.

The ardent followers of John Wesley, who sought and won trophies on so many fields a hundred years ago, preached the Gospel with remarkable results in the army of Great Britain. Their aim was for the soul alone.

The English Florence Nightingale—name sweeter than the enchanting night-song of her own English namesake—in her aim combined bodily relief with religious benefits. Yet although her name is national, and her fame universal, her work was individual.

Thousands of our American women, also, combine the two. Stars they are in our nation's firmament in this night of war. A galaxy so great, that instead of shining in single lustre like her of England, their brilliance blends into one radiant cloud. Yet lovely as these instances are, heroic, Christian, comprehensive in aim, and great in numbers, they lack the breadth of

nationality in organization with unity of plan and ubiquity of presence to reach all parts of the immense field at once.

The Christian Commission alone, and the first since the world began, is a national agency, embracing man as mortal yet immortal, in plans of beneficence for all parts of an immense army and navy actively engaged in war.

V. RELIANCE UPON UNPAID DELEGATES.

The system adopted eighteen hundred years ago by our Lord Jesus Christ was in principle the same. He selected and sent forth *men* full of faith and the Holy Ghost, men so loving the world as to be willing to leave their homes and go without fee or reward to bear the glad tidings of a Saviour to the lost, and carrying with them their relief for the sick and the suffering in the Divine power of miracles for all maladies.

But in a national organization, and in application to a vast army and navy engaged in active hostilities, this principle is new.

From the national capital around the whole war circle, the entire length of the Alleghanies and the great western rivers down to the Crescent City, and around, up again, all along the coast back to the national capital, delegates of the Christian Commission are at work, in the apostolic spirit, for the apostolic pay. Armed, it is true, not with the power of miracles for all maladies, but with both stores and publications for all wants of body and mind.

VI. PERSONAL DISTRIBUTION WITH PERSONAL MINISTRATIONS.

Stores given—*never if the soldier is under the surgeon's care without his consent and counsel, but always if possible directly from the delegate to the soldier*, and always adding such personal service to the value of the gift as may be needed.

Is the gift a shirt, drawers and socks for the soldier wounded or sick? Wash him first, and then put them on!

Is it a bed? make it up in order and tenderly place him on it!

Is it only a blanket? wrap him in it!

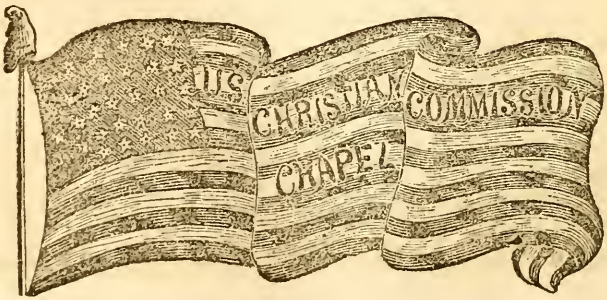
Is it some delicacy for the sick, or coffee or soup for the worn or the wounded, or a meal for the hungry wayfarer? Prepare

it nicely and serve it! The reward will come when in heaven the table shall be spread, and the King of kings shall come forth and serve you.

Enhance the value of both gifts and services by kind words to the soldier as *a man*, not a machine; as a man *beloved* for his heroic devotion to the Union, not despised as mere hireling food for powder and shot. Set his heart all aglow with thoughts of the loving ones at home, who send the gifts and send the delegates to give them, and who wait for tidings and pray for the soldiers, and long for the time when, the war ended, peace restored, the Union saved, liberty achieved, republican government rescued and guaranteed, the soldiers shall be welcomed back again, and the unsullied, coming forth like pure gold from the crucible, shall be loved and trusted as long as they live, and honored long after they are dead as the heroes who helped to save the nation!

Then when good gifts and kind words and deeds have made their impress, and the soldier exclaims, "Well, this *is* religion!" and says, "Tell me all about it, *how I can* become a real Christian?" then tell him of Jesus, his love, his sacrifice for sin, his power to save, his abundant grace, his readiness to pardon, his perfect righteousness, all, all the sinner's own by simple faith, and induce him to accept of the unspeakable gift, and let the news of a sinner saved ascend on angel wing to give new joy in the presence of God above, and let it go home to fill the waiting, longing hearts of loving ones with glad surprise, and there also awaken the inquiry for the way of life, and bring others to repentance.

Then go stand in the chapel-tent, with its red, white, and blue flag afloat above it, inscribed



crowded inside and around by men who have learned to reverence religion from such fruits, and there proclaim the Gospel of peace to these men of war, preach Jesus and eternal life to these bronzed, battle-scarred heroes of many hairbreadth escapes, who know that there is but a step between them and death, and oh how they listen! How their breasts heave and tears course their cheeks!

VII. CO-OPERATION.

1. With Chaplains.—The chaplaincy is the governmental provision for the Christian care and culture of the army and navy. It is right and worthy of a Christian nation. An enormous wrong would have been done if the hundreds of thousands of our sons and brothers had been called out from our Christian homes and churches, and exposed to the perils of camp and battle, without all possible provision for their preservation from demoralization and destruction, and for their present and eternal salvation.

A chaplain for every regiment was ample, the best provision that Congress could make. The appointments, too, were made with sincere desire generally to carry out the beneficent design of Congress. That some unworthy men should seek and secure appointment, is not strange.

That some good men, impelled to enlist by true patriotism and piety, should find themselves, either from want of adaptation on their part or want of support on the part of the men and officers of their regiments, in false position, and be obliged to abandon it, is quite natural; that the unworthy ones should disgrace their office by unworthy courses, and that weak ones should be overcome and degenerate into habits of vice and crime, and that these instances should be seized upon as food for scandal, and be trumpeted to the ends of the world, was matter of course. So, also, was the sifting process, by which the number should decrease and the quality improve.

Failure of some in power of endurance, exposed as they are to vicissitudes, hardships, and privations, and of others in power of purpose to hold on to the end of the war, could not fail to reduce the number still more.

But for the Christian Commission, on account of these things,

to have endeavored to supplant and supersede the remaining chaplains, who had stood the test and kept on their course, would have been unwise, unpatriotic, and unchristian. To meet the deficiency of chaplain service as far as possible by its delegate system, and to aid the tried and noble men who, through all perils, hindrances, and hardships, still remain to serve God and our country to the end of the war by supplying them with Scriptures, Hymns and Psalms, and the best issues of the religious press in every form, fresh, frequent, and copious as possible, is both wise, patriotic, and Christian.

The idea, however, that this work of supplementing and supplying the chaplaincy, is or ought to be the main work of the Christian Commission, is extremely contracted, and would reduce the sphere of the Commission from that of a great national, religious, and relief agency between the people, the church, the home, the press, on the one hand, and the army and navy on the other, to that of little more than a mere receiving and distributing agency between publishing establishments and chaplains. With these facts in view, co-operation with chaplains has been a steadfast principle with the Commission from the first. Help has never been sought in vain within the boundaries of our objects and means by any chaplain; nor will it ever be.

2. Co-operation with Surgeons, Officers, and Christian Men.—God has called more noble Christians forth into the service of the Union than ever before engaged in any one war upon earth. Scarcely a church or Sabbath school in the land is without its representatives in the war. Some congregations have given whole companies and more. Young Men's Christian Associations have given regiments in one or two instances, and large numbers in very many. Pastors have gone with the young men of some congregations, leaving behind few besides the old men and children with the women. Men have enlisted just as Howard procured his own arrest and incarceration in the dungeon, to be able to do good, and as Martyn went to India to win souls to Jesus.

Nothing can delight these noble men, whether surgeons, officers, or soldiers, more than to be helped to the very thing they need at the time and place they need it, to enable them to relieve suffering, save life, and win souls to the Redeemer; and

nothing can please the Commission better than to give these brethren beloved the help they crave just when and where they want it.

One more must complete this specification of foundation principles, viz.:

VIII. RESPECT FOR AUTHORITIES.

Before entering upon its work, the names, organization, purposes, and plans of the Commission, were laid before the President, the Secretaries of War and of the Navy, the General-in-Chief, and the Surgeon-General, and their approbation received.

In each military department, general hospital, permanent camp and separate post or station, the consent and counsel of those in command have been sought and obtained at the threshold.

Delegates are strictly enjoined, in the prosecution of their religious duties, to offer every possible assistance to chaplains, but never to intrude uninvited upon their proper domain. And in their work of ministering to the health and comfort of those under medical treatment and care, to do nothing without instructions from the surgeons in charge, and in all great emergencies on the battle-ground, or in the field hospital, or at points where the wounded are to be fed and cared for, during their removal from the front, always to report themselves to the medical director or surgeon in charge, and place themselves under his instructions for just that service which will most effectually aid him in the work of relieving and saving our wounded heroes.

And here let it be said to the praise of those in authority, that the Christian Commission has been greatly assisted in its work, by the timely, wise and generous counsels and conduct of generals in the field, surgeons, officers and chaplains; to whom we and our country owe not only the meed of praise but a debt of gratitude and love.

These then,—CATHOLICITY, NATIONALITY, VOLUNTARINESS, COMBINATION OF BENEFITS FOR BODY AND SOUL, RELIANCE UPON UNPAID DELEGATES, PERSONAL DISTRIBUTION WITH PERSONAL MINISTRATIONS, CO-OPERATION WITH CHAPLAINS, SURGEONS, OFFICERS AND CHRISTIAN MEN, AND RESPECT FOR AUTHORITIES, are the foundation principles of the United States

Christian Commission, which we are to see in play as we go to its principal centres of supply at home and fields of action at the seat of war.

Above all these principles of action, hovering over and coming down upon the heads and hearts of ministers, churches, people and delegates, like the Pentecostal breath of heaven, baptizing them with fire, is the threefold inspiration of love for the country, the soldiers and the Saviour. It is this which gives the tongue of fire to those who speak, the soul of bounty to those who give, the apostolic spirit to those who serve without pay, the tireless energy to those who work; which writes Holiness to the Lord on the bells of the "iron horse," and upon the wires of the lightning messenger, and over all throws the halo of the millennial dawn, harbinger of the long-expected day.

SOURCES AND CENTRES OF SUPPLY.

Inspired by this love for the country, the soldiers and the Saviour, and impressed by these principles of the Commission, the goodwill of the people has spontaneously supplied men, money and stores. The artesian shaft of war, sunk far down by the hand of the Great Artificer, has penetrated the deeper stratum of Christian sympathy, and the abundant waters of beneficence come gushing forth in copious crystal streams. The Christian Commission has had no organ to embody and make known its work and its wants. The thought of having one was entertained, weighed and abandoned in favor of the public press, religious and secular, which, unbought and free, has been our willing and sufficient voice to the world.

Few documents have been issued, and these sent to few except those who sought them, yet enough to fill many volumes has gone to the public by the voluntary action of the press.

No paid agency system has been adopted for the field of supply. Delegates returning from the seat of war have added their voluntary testimony and service at home to their voluntary work in the field, and there never was such another agency to move the people. In two or three instances indeed, returned delegates, under the pressure of constant and earnest demand for them to address public meetings, have been retained. Scarcely an exception this to the general principle. Necessary sustenance has been the rule of com-

pensation, and this largely met by special spontaneous provision outside the general contributions to the Commission. Without an agency and without an organ to urge them, the noblest and best people of the nation have, in their various centres, organized as committees and acted as local Christian Commissions, and as branches of the General Commission, appointed their officers, opened their offices and storerooms, and issued their manifestoes. And the people, without drumming up, have sent in their money and stores to these various centres of supply, which in turn have poured in their streams into the general work of the Commission.

Ministers and laymen, full of desire to give more than influence and money at home, have offered themselves at various centres, and gone, under the auspices of the Commission, to all parts of the great war-belt, to do work, with head, heart, tongue and hands, never dreamed of at home, and which no money could have hired them to do, work which only such men so moved ever could have done.

Meetings have been called for, and speakers knowing the work and plans of the Commission sent for, from places far and near, not from idle curiosity, but from liberal burning desire to have men enlisted and money contributed.

No outside means, or indirect appliances, combining personal pleasure with public beneficence, to draw money which would not be given directly, have been resorted to.

It is truly wonderful how freely and generously the streams have flowed in. Twice on Thanksgiving days, the first without timely notice to afford general concert of action, the people have by their contributions made their THANK OFFERINGS through the Commission, the second alone amounting to NEARLY NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

Twice in the CITY OF BOSTON,—once for the WOUNDED OF GETTYSBURG and again for the UNION PRISONERS IN RICHMOND—E. S. Tobey, Esq., President of the Young Men's Christian Association, and ex-President of the Board of Trade, and C. Demond, Esq., of the Commission, sat at a table, in the Merchants' Exchange, to receive the free offerings of the people, and without personal solicitation over forty thousand dollars was bestowed.

While our brave men were sweltering before Charleston in the

extreme heat of summer, and our fellow-citizens seeking comfort and health at the Springs and elsewhere, the occasion of our meetings at Saratoga was seized upon by the Chairman of the Commission, assisted by Governor Morgan of New York, to present at the dinner tables of the hotels, the appeal which had come up from Charleston for ice. The result was voluntary contributions of near four thousand dollars, invested, sent forward, received, and hearty thanks returned therefor.

The City of Providence, where no appeal had before been made, responded to the call of the chairman and Rev. George J. Mingins for the Commission, by the subscription of nearly seven thousand dollars within a few days.

Pottsville, at the first presentation of the work of the Commission by Rev. Dr. Patterson, of Chicago, and Rev. C. P. Lyford from Camp Convalescent, gave near three thousand dollars, and subsequently volunteered to supply coal through the Chairman of the Commission to the families of soldiers deceased, disabled, or away to the war. And the Reading Railroad Company has given free transportation for it all.

Columbia, Pa., without an appeal from any one, volunteered a handsome subscription.

Philadelphia, at a single public Union meeting in the Church of the Epiphany, gave twelve thousand dollars.

Of all this spontaneous liberality the most remarkable features remain yet to be mentioned.

Hotels,—and these amongst the best in our cities, have opened their doors to the members and delegates of the Christian Commission, free of all charge. The Burnet House, Cincinnati, the Lindell House and Barnum's Hotel, St. Louis, have received them as guests, without charge, and given unsolicited but most gratifying assurance of their purpose to continue to do so. And the Continental, in Philadelphia, after entertaining the gentlemen from all parts of the country, for days, in attendance upon our meetings in October, when called upon for the amount of their bill, which would have been nearly two hundred and fifty dollars, sent a kind note, saying, they begged to contribute it as their mite toward the great and good work. Other hotels may have done similar things, without its having been reported to us.

Telegraph Companies,—have given facilities of inestimable value, without charge. Early in our history, Col. E. S. Sanford, President of the American Telegraph Company, of his own accord, addressed a kind and polite note to the Chairman of the Christian Commission, stating the fact, that he had then already given orders to the offices of his Company in the different cities, to make no charge for the transmission of official despatches on business of the Commission.

Nearly all the other companies in the loyal States subsequently gave the Commission the regulated freedom of their lines, measuring in the aggregate not less than twenty thousand miles,—a most substantial and essential contribution, worth, at cash value, many thousands of dollars a year, and in its general influence, worth many times over more than the value in money.

Railroad Companies,—have given their facilities with equal cheerfulness. More than *twelve hundred* delegates have been passed over the railways to the seat of war and home again during the year, without charge. Some of them all the way from Bangor and beyond, in Maine, to Chattanooga, in Tennessee. Passes have been given to members of the Commission and of its various branches, and to its returned delegates and others going out to hold meetings, and stores and publications have been transported, either entirely free, or at greatly reduced rates. It can be no longer said with truth, that corporations are bodies without souls. We have the most substantial evidence that they may be and are governed by the noblest principles, and the most generous impulses.

When the historian comes to write the history we are now making, that of the railway benevolence and patriotism of this war will form one of the interesting and remarkable features of the times, and there are names amongst those who have controlled the affairs of the various companies which will shine with no mean lustre when their deeds shall be told.

Pre-eminent in amount and most precious in kind have been the contributions of the American Bible Society,—465,715 copies of the Scriptures, entire or in portions, amounting in value to $45,071 50, within the year. It is a matter of ceaseless gratitude that God has provided such a source of benefit and blessing

to our brave men for this the time of their need, and given its management into the hands of men so true to their trust, yet so ready for the emergency.

Elsewhere in this report will be found interesting papers, giving accounts in detail of several extraordinary contributions,—that of a lady in England through the President of the United States, that of the men at sea on board of the man-of-war Pocahontas, and that of the missionaries in India.

These are a few instances only of the vast number, all of which taken together form one of the noblest illustrations of spontaneous Christian benevolence that the world has ever witnessed.

If ever there was heart-work pure and unmingled, on a scale of national Christian bounty and enterprise, we have it in the action of the people through the Christian Commission to the heroes, fighting, suffering, falling for the country.

DIVISION OF THE FIELD.

To give satisfactory definiteness of object and to increase interest and efficiency in the various centres of supply at home, to give greater thoroughness and breadth to the work in the army and navy, and also to distribute the burdens and equalize the rewards of our labor, the field has been divided as follows:

To the **New York Committee** of the United States Christian Commission has been assigned,—

1. The navy entire, except the local work in navy yards and on vessels in port in the localities of other committees.

2. The military departments along the Atlantic seaboard, from New York to the Gulf of Mexico inclusive.

The field assigned is vast, embracing not less than a fourth of the entire national forces, peculiar both as comprising the navy and the southern seaboard, difficult because distant, and expensive because so much time and money must be consumed by delegates going and returning.

In addition to the entire expenses of their own field, the Committee has added to the receipts of the general treasury and to the means of the general work.

To the **Maryland Committee,** Baltimore, was assigned the State of Maryland, with the localities along the Baltimore

and Ohio Railway to the western line of the State. A field abundant in work, but limited in supply.

Its proximity to the seat of war and subjection to occasional invasion; its fortifications in the vicinity of Baltimore and Harper's Ferry, and numerous guard stations along the great railways; its great permanent camps and many hospitals; its military prisons, and the moving tides of soldiers, sick, wounded and well, passing and repassing through,—make Maryland one of the great fields of the Christian Commission, and with home resources limited by the chilling influence of an unsympathizing element, and with less aid from abroad than could have been desired, the Committee has done an amount of good most surprising and gratifying.

Their report, which will be found in its proper place, gives the principal features and general results of their work; but to see it in more full proportions their voluminous report, published last autumn, must be examined.

To the **Washington Committee** was assigned the Army of the Potomac, the District of Columbia and Northern Virginia adjacent. To which, for convenience, the military prison at Point Lookout, with its guard station, and the great dismounted cavalry camp—Stoneman—in Maryland, have been added.

The surpassing interest of their field may be judged from the fact, that at one of its stations, Camp Convalescent, alone, more than one thousand hopeful conversions have occurred during the year. What a parish, and what a work! But to be surveyed in its amazing details, both of stations, work and results, the spirited and intensely interesting reports of the Committee and its missionary, together with the clear and graphic report of the general field agent of the Army of the Potomac, must be carefully read. The history of the world may be challenged to furnish a parallel to the grand and glorious work therein exhibited.

To the **Committees of Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Louisville,** jointly, was assigned the Departments of the Ohio and of the Cumberland, since merged in the grand Department of the Mississippi.

A great field! a field of great armies, great battles, great

emergencies and necessities, and of a great work by the Christian Commission!

A little reluctant, and unlike the great West, a little slow to organize and undertake, these Committees, having measured their opportunity, have entered into the work with a spirit of energy and enterprise worthy of the great West, as will be abundantly evident from their several reports, together with that of the "Work in the Army of the Cumberland."

And here again, History may be challenged for any parallel in all her annals.

To the **Committees of St. Louis, Chicago, Peoria, Detroit and Milwaukie,** jointly, the Departments of Missouri and Tennessee, together with all west and south to the northern line of the Gulf Department, have been assigned.

The Department of Tennessee has, like those of the Ohio and Cumberland, been since merged by the Government in General Grant's great department, but this does not affect the fields as assigned. By tracing the lines of this field, along the great sweep of the Mississippi and its eastern side tributaries, south to the line of the Gulf Department and west to Texas, and north and east to include Arkansas and Missouri, and by resting the eye upon the bloody and brilliant fields of Shiloh, Corinth, Memphis, Helena, Arkansas Post, and the scenes of General Grant's glorious campaign, Vicksburg included, without stopping to see the scores of other places of heroic and sanguinary interest, some idea of the field in its immensity and intensity may be gained.

The reports given, graphic, full and truthful as they are, convey but a faint impression to the casual reader of the work done and the good accomplished.

The Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston, and others not having special fields assigned them, contribute to the general treasury, and aid in the general work of the United States Christian Commission through the General Executive Committee, which has the freedom and oversight of all fields.

And all Committees are specially charged with whatever army and navy work there may be for them to do in their various localities.

FIELD ORGANIZATION.

The general plan of organization for the systematic prosecution of our army work is as follows:

1. A division of the entire army into convenient fields, and the appointment of permanent field agents for the fields designated. The fields are not always coincident in boundaries with military departments, but suited rather to the convenience and necessities of Christian Commission work. All east of the Alleghanies and west of the coast departments, are thrown into one general field. This field embraces the Army of the Potomac, the hospitals and defences of Washington, and the great permanent camps in that vicinity, the Upper Potomac and country adjacent, and the hospitals, camps, fortifications, guard stations, &c., of Maryland.

This field is placed under the supervision of one general field agent, John A. Cole, Esq., with the assistance of two field agents, C. W. Jenkins and Rev. E. F. Williams.

The Army of the Cumberland, and the various camps, hospitals, and military stations connected with it, from Louisville south, form a second field, under the superintendence of Rev. Edward P. Smith, who commenced his work as a delegate of the Commission in the Army of the Potomac, assisted for several months by Rev. Henry Powers, of Massachusetts, who took entire charge of the work while Mr. Smith went to Vicksburg to organize there; and afterwards by Rev. Benjamin Parsons, of Connecticut, who was the acting field agent during the absence of Mr. Smith on a visit east.

The Department of the Ohio, embracing the army formerly commanded by General Burnside, now by General Foster, and the camps, posts, hospitals, &c., in its connection, form a third field, under charge of J. R. Miller, Esq., formerly a field agent under Mr. Cole in his general field.

The command of General Hurlbut, and the hospitals, posts, &c., on the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers, having Memphis for their most convenient depot of supply, form the fourth field, under care of K. A. Burnell, Esq., as field agent.

The forces, hospitals, posts, &c., in Missouri, and the region

convenient to St. Louis, as an immediate centre of supply, form the fifth field, under Rev. Shepherd Wells, as field agent.

The work amongst the forces, and in the hospitals, posts, &c., at Vicksburg and vicinity, is under the care of Wm. C. Black, Esq., local agent at Vicksburg.

The Mississippi, from Port Hudson down, together with the Gulf Department, and the departments along the Atlantic coast, from Norfolk to Florida inclusive, have a system of organization differing somewhat from that of the departments embraced in the several fields designated above, and come immediately under the jurisdiction of the New York Branch of the United States Christian Commission.

To avoid the possibility of misapprehension, it is proper to state here that, in each of the fields specified above, the various branches of the Commission to whom the various fields are assigned, as specified under the head of "Division of the Field," not only have immediate charge of supplying their several fields, but are also the advisory bodies with whom the field agents counsel and co-operate. The appointment and control of all permanent agents, field and local, rests with the General Executive Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

2. Christian Commission stations are organized and sustained at such places as required in all these fields,—one at each centre of supply and distribution, each great permanent camp, each large cluster of hospitals, each gathering and stopping place on the line leading to the army, and each great army centre.

Each station, if complete, has its store-room or tent for hospital supplies and reading matter; free reading room; free writing table, supplied with stationery; subsistence and sleeping tents or apartments; place or places for religious services, together with its surrounding field, whether of hospitals, camps, barracks, or whatever demanding labor and supply; and each one is manned with a station agent and delegates in such numbers as circumstances permit or require. The stations are established and conducted under supervision of the field agent, and all delegates in the several fields are assigned to stations also by him.

The battle-field of Gettysburg gave rise for the time to a work so distinct as to form a field by itself, not independent of

the general field of the Army of the Potomac, but very much isolated, and requiring specific organization and separate prosecution.

The general field agent, after following the army for three weeks on horseback night and day, and taking every precautionary and preparatory measure to have the corps of delegates and field agents, with ample battle-field stores on the field for the instant relief of those who might fall in the conflict, felt constrained, after the battle, when the army marched in pursuit of the enemy, to follow it on toward the Potomac, where another and perhaps more terrible engagement was confidently expected.

The organization for the Gettysburg work was as follows:

Field agent, F. E. Shearer, Esq., formerly local agent at Washington.

Assistant field agent and field inspector, Rev. E. F. Williams.

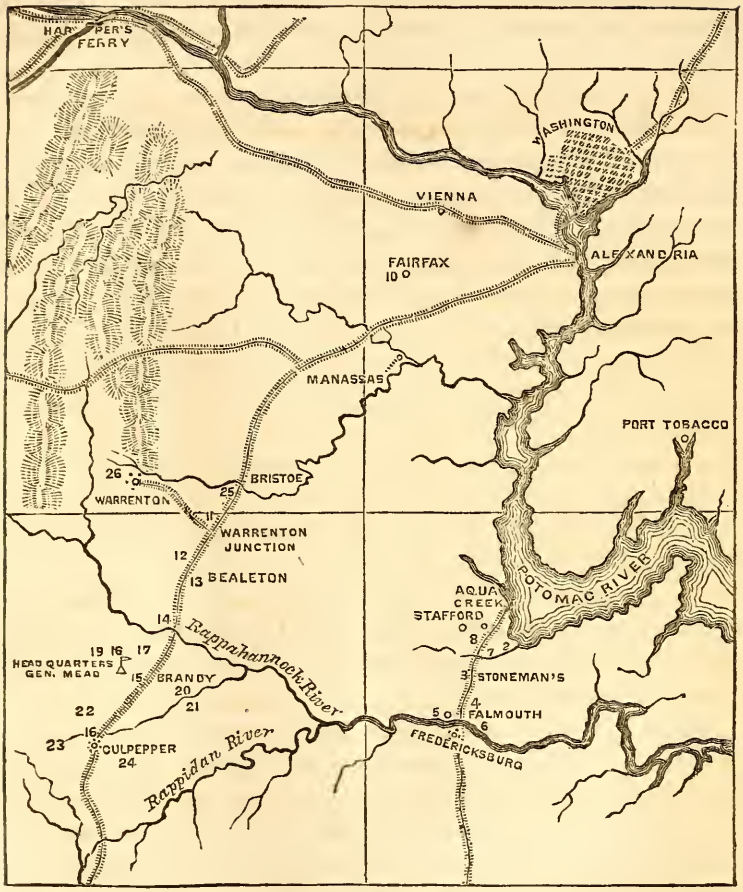
Disbursing agent, J. R. Miller, Esq.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Shearer were already field agents in the Army of the Potomac before.

Receiving agent, R. G. McCreary, Esq., of Gettysburg.

These agents were assisted by several others, whilst the great work was done by the three hundred and more delegates from all parts of the country.

As will be seen by reference to the general account of the "work at Gettysburg" embodied in this report, this large corps of delegates was divided into companies,—a captain appointed over each company, and a specific field assigned to each out somewhere in some portion of the extended field of blood, where each had its tent or station in connection generally with some army corps hospital.



U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION STATIONS.

1. Aquiá Creek Station.
2. Belle Plain and Windmill Point Stations.
3. Stoneman's Station.
4. Falmouth Station.
5. Falmouth Village Station.
6. White Oak Church Station.
7. Potomac Creek Station.
8. Howard Station.
9. Brooks' Station.
10. Fairfax Station.
11. Warrenton Junction Station.
12. Germantown Station.
13. Bealeton Station.
14. Rappahannock Station.
15. Brandy Station.
16. Culpeper Station.
17. River Station.
18. Artillery Reserve, 2.
19. ——— Station.
20. Mountain Run Station.
21. Cole Hill Station.
22. Bullock Station.
23. Sperryville Pike Station.
24. Pine Hill Station.
25. Bristoe Station.
26. Warrenton City Station.

WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

THE month of January, 1863, found the Army of the Potomac on the east bank of the Rappahannock, opposite the heights of Fredericksburg, where, a few days before, thousands of its strong men had gone down in battle. The rains of winter were falling, and the cold north wind incited the weary troops to active exertions, as they built up their cities of log huts. The campaign, all said, was at an end, and winter quarters must follow. But it was not so. One night the order comes, "Advance!" and again the great army is marching on to the accomplishment of its mighty task.

Not long to advance. The rain, so long threatening, now falls continuously; the roads become impassable. Artillery wagons, caissons and guns cut deep into the yielding earth, until, in spite of lashings and oaths innumerable, the floundering mules fail to start them from their plastic beds, and so, after hours of wading and waiting, the long column crawls back as best it may, and again takes its old position, before the frowning heights of St. Marie's.

Thousands, who had passed unhurt through the deadly rain of a dozen battles, fell victims to the inglorious perils of the "mud campaign;" and so, when the vast hospital at Windmill Point was set up, there were enough ready to fill its tents and populate its streets.

The Christian Commission had at this time two stations: one at the shanty village of Aquia, the other at the railroad terminus opposite the city of Fredericksburg. The first consisted of a rough board barrack, fifteen feet by twenty, its front door opening upon the marsh; the other a tent, fourteen feet by fourteen,—both being assigned to us by the quartermaster of the post. In these quarters, rude and limited as they were, a work,

great in amount and variety, was performed. Here the delegates of the Commission lived, ate and slept; on this rough table were written the letters that, indited by warm hearts, incited the hearts of thousands, in their distant homes, to give of their abundance for the soldiers' aid; upon this floor and upon the three stories of the rude scaffolding that adorned one side of the room, slept the weary workers after their day of toil, and with them, as many belated travellers as could find a resting-place. Here, upon shelves and in boxes, were the supplies sent for the needy, from east and north and west: here a pile of Testaments, there a box of hymn books; in this corner a huge stack of religious papers and tracts, on the other side, shelves filled with dried fruits, preserved fruits, domestic wines; and in these boxes, generous piles of warm shirts, socks and drawers. On that top shelf, seldom reached, are the bags of lint, bandages and rags, lanterns and pails, brandy and soup,—the suggestive equipment for the battle-field.

Here in the day is a constant stream of chaplains, and surgeons, and soldiers, coming for the weekly supply of reading for the regiment, some hospital luxuries for the sick, or for the little "housewife," with its needles and thread and much-prized letter. Delegates coming and going, taking their loads in arms and haversacks, as they go to distant hospitals and camps, bearing the word of life, or refreshment for frail bodies. Here at night, the boxes placed in rows, the table set on one side, the little room is filled with a company of worshippers, met for the praise of God.

The work of the Christian Commission in the army is one of constant change,—no monotonous routine, no continued sameness. The year, indeed, is made up of many distinct *campaigns*, the one differing so greatly from the other, that, although the same men may be actors in each, one can with difficulty identify them as the same. This week the delegates may be distributing religious papers and books, preaching the Gospel to crowds of healthy, vigorous men; the next, preparing with their own hands some soothing draught or nourishing food for those who are languishing with disease in some lone hospital, cheering the desponding spirits with the kind attentions of "home." This week preparing reading-rooms and chapels, feeding the mind with that

which is wholesome and abiding, inciting to temperance, purity and piety; the next, with coats off, before a fire of logs, cooking coffee and soup for the hungry, or bearing stimulants and nutriment to those who are perishing. To-day living quietly in "winter quarters;" to-morrow, off for the battle-field, with a blanket alone for house and shelter.

During the month of January, at the stations before mentioned, the delegates of the Commission performed a twofold work,—one party with a wagon visiting camps and field hospitals, taking both hospital stores and religious reading; the other remaining at the station, preparing food and drink for the hundreds of sick who, on their way to the hospital, were detained sometimes many hours at the railroad station. But before the month closed a new field opened, that completely changed the plans of the Commission.

Windmill Point Hospital, with its crowds of sick men, called for all the help that could be rendered. It was such an hospital as never before nor since was seen in the Army of the Potomac. On a broad level plain, not long since a cultivated field, was a city of tents, regularly laid out in immense diamond-shaped inclosures. Eight army corps, each with its three divisions, were represented here, and here on the bed of poles or boughs, on the cold, muddy floor, in the fireless tents, were the thousands of pale, drooping, disease-stricken "boys," who after that tedious march had come there to rest, many to die. From necessity, while the officers of Government made every exertion to perfect this vast machine, many days elapsed before the men, who were coming in boats and in ambulances from all parts of the army, night and day, could be made comfortable or be properly fed. In those long, cold nights, in spite of all that could be done, many poor, weak ones were chilled and frozen, and the mounds of sand in the lone "God's acre," told a fearful story of war's cruel necessities. Where to begin to aid, which poor sufferer first to help, were the perplexing queries arising to the mind of one anxious to do all one man could; but surely no time is to be lost. One delegate, seizing an axe, hastens to the woods and returns dragging fuel that shall give a little warmth to a few of the hundreds

of cheerless tents; another prepares stimulating drinks, and going from tent to tent, seeks out those ready to perish, and as he passes from one to another, able to answer a few of the calls made to him upon every side, he speaks such words of cheer as he is able, and commends with a few heart-words some departing soul to God and His upper world.

And so, with tears and aching hearts and tireless feet, the delegates of the Commission, all that can be spared from the stations, labor night and day.

A station was at once established in the camps; the telegraph and the mail soon turned thousands of loaves of bread toward the "Point," from Washington and Philadelphia. Cordials, clothing and fruit were soon at their destination, and many a desponding, sick and dying soldier was cheered and endowed with new life.

Nor was this all. In this hour of man's extremity, God's Spirit was at work. Silently and wonderfully a deep solemnity came upon the camps, and very many crying unto God had their souls filled with unutterable joy in the consciousness of sins forgiven and a Saviour found. As the condition of the hospital became better, and Government aid, which, although it may be slow, is *sure*, came in, the delegates of the Commission found more time to devote to the spiritual wants of those around them. Prayer was offered regularly in the tents, meetings were held in a large cookhouse, and hundreds were personally and affectionately urged to trust all with Jesus, and every day saw sinners awakened and converted. At one meeting in the cookhouse, composed of those convalescing and able to leave their tents, over fifty persons announced their desire and determination to begin a Christian life; and men who came to that dreary camp, as they thought, to die, came to find *life, even life eternal.*

An arrangement was made with the corps surgeons and post quartermaster, by which funeral services were held, by some delegate, at every burial of the dead.

It was suddenly decided to break up this camp, sending the sick to regimental hospitals, and those most feeble to the hospitals of Washington and Alexandria. It was quickly done, and the experiences and labor at "Windmill Point Hospital" were forever at an end. A strange season it seems, as we look

back upon it; full of sadness, pain and death, and yet blessed in being an opportunity, improved to some extent, of doing good to many, and rich with the evidence of the presence and Spirit of the Lord.

One campaign was over, and vigorous measures were taken for the next. Acting upon the experience gained at "Windmill Point," it was resolved to undertake to supply every regiment in the army with copies of the New Testament. To do this more stations would be required, and more delegates and stores needed. These were forthcoming, and until the 3d of May stations were in successful operation at Aquia Creek, Belle Plain, White Oak Church, Falmouth Station, Falmouth Village, and Stoneman's Siding. Although this supply of Testaments was for the time being the *first object* of the stations, it was far from being their principal work. Each station was complete in itself, and contained from three to seven delegates. Hospital stores, Testaments, and religious reading were at each, and were distributed under the direction of committees appointed for the purpose. At each, where practicable, a house or tent for religious worship was secured and meetings held every evening, while on the Sabbath appointments for preaching to regiments or brigades were filled by the clerical delegates. One of the number, usually the oldest delegate, acted as *station agent*, and early in the morning the different delegates, assigned to their various duties, would separate,—one with an ambulance-load of quilts, dried fruit, or clothing, for a distant hospital; another making the round of the regiments to collect and fill orders for Testaments; others with bundles of books and papers, distributing among destitute companies. So the busy day was filled, until at evening all would meet, and, with the soldiers who crowded the room or tent, ask God's blessing upon the labors of the day.

Time forbids to speak of more than one or two stations particularly, although the history of each is replete with interest.

Stoneman's Station was the scene of a remarkable revival. The tents used as a chapel formed a room nearly sixty feet long. Meetings were held nightly, and to them officers and men came

in crowds. The tents stood upon an elevation, commanding an extended view, and, as the evening hour drew near, men, singly and in squads and companies, could be seen wending their way from the various camps towards the house of prayer.

Mount Zion, the soldiers called it; and, like Mount Zion of old, it was indeed "beautiful" when, crowded to its utmost capacity and throngs about the open doors, strains of some familiar *home-loved hymn* floated out upon the evening air. Here were heard from veterans who had passed through all the temptations and trials of a soldier's life, testimonies of the strength and comfort they had experienced all the way along from the religion of Jesus; here soldiers would ask what they should do to obtain that same comfort; and here many, with joy beaming on the countenance, would tell of the blessing they had found in the assurance of sins forgiven through the blood of Christ.

The number of men who in these meetings gained a knowledge of Jesus, no earthly record will ever show; but to-day we know there are scores who date the commencement of their Christian life from those meetings at Stoneman's, and hundreds, many of whom have already joined the company of saints in heaven, will thank God through eternity for His spirit there received.

Falmouth Village presented a most interesting field for our station labor, and one, too, quite different from that at Stoneman's. The Commission there occupied a large room in a private house, the owner being away on business connected with the Southern Confederacy. An old tobacco warehouse on the very banks of the river, within hail of the rebel pickets, was cleared of rubbish, the broken ceiling and windows were covered with old canvas, and a small table, borrowed from a neighboring cottage, served for a pulpit. Here, on Sabbath afternoons and on each evening of the week, meetings were held which were largely attended, and here, too, the preaching of the truth was made salvation to many erring souls. The village itself was a ruin; its church used as a barrack for troops; its stores and factories closed. A large number of the inhabitants were still there, living as best they could,—old men, women, and children. The station agent, among other labors, organized a *Sabbath school* for the children, which came to be held *every day in the week.* Thirty or forty little rebels were gathered in, who, for two years

of want and war, had heard nothing of school or church. They very soon learned to recite hymns from the "Soldier's Hymn-book" and chapters from the Testament. The confidence of the inhabitants was in this way secured, and by the distribution of Testaments and tracts among them it is believed real service was done for the Master.

Thus the months of March and April passed away, our work going on successfully at all points, there being none to molest or make us afraid; and yet, as the spring days passed and the roads became hard and settled, we knew that our time there was short, and that what we would do must be done quickly. Reviews of cavalry and infantry came in quick succession—of brigades, divisions, and corps—before Governors of States, members of Congress, and at last before the President himself,—so that we were not taken by surprise when, one May morning, we looked out upon the old camps to find that in the night all had melted away, and nought but crumbling walls and blackened posts remained. It was a thrilling sight, and to us a sad one, as the long lines of infantry, with colors flying, but with the sound of neither fife nor drum, marched steadily and silently away—away for yet another stern grapple with the country's foe.

Nothing more remained for us at the old stations, and so, with haste and many regrets that work so precious must now be sealed up forever, we rolled up our tents, removed our stores, and prepared for our next campaign. It came almost before we were ready for it. After many rumors of as many different movements, we learned that our forces had crossed the Rappahannock and a battle had been fought twelve or fifteen miles up the river. A detachment of our corps of delegates accompanied the army in connection with Gen. Whipple's Division, and were under fire during the battle, taking care of the wounded. A council of the delegates remaining was called, and it was deemed best to divide the force into two parties,—one to go directly to the battle-field, the other to remain at Falmouth, where it was expected a fierce battle would be fought. The plan was soon carried out, and a Government wagon was loaded with such stores as previous experience had shown to be useful, and started

for United States Ford. Threading their way through woods and fields filled with wagons, ambulances, and guns, after a journey of many hours the ford was reached. No wagons were allowed beyond; so the load was taken out, a place for camp selected, and the wagon sent back to Falmouth. There was no lack of work,—on all sides, at every house and barn and shed, in gardens and door-yards, under trees and the shelter of walls, lay wounded and bleeding men. With soap and bandages and pails, strong arms and willing hearts, the services of these delegates were offered to the surgeons in charge and gladly accepted, and from that time were hard at work. Their supply of stimulants and food was soon exhausted, but was reinforced by another wagon-load sent from Falmouth.

The party left behind in the meantime were not idle. The Second and Sixth Corps, storming the heights of Fredericksburg, carried everything before them in victory. The "old flag" waved in triumph from height to height; but in the city the red signals hanging at every corner, at church-doors, and the market-place, told how fearful was the cost,—hospitals on every side, houses filled with the prostrate forms of dying men, who but an hour ago rushed forward to the charge. But why tarry here? No pen can describe such scenes or record such labors.

The history of Chancellorsville is known by all; its gallant achievements, its bitter disappointment, its herculean labors, and its fruitless end.

It is enough to say that the delegates of the Christian Commission worked amid those scenes as any other fathers or brothers would have toiled, had they been permitted to be there.

Wearied and sad, the remnant of the great army came back to the old camps. The old walls are again covered and echo to the sounds of life; but how many whose voices one week before were heard in the cabins and the streets are now forever silent in the soldier's grave!

Field hospitals were now established, or rather enlarged, for the tents had been rising for two or three weeks before the battle, in anticipation of it. The wounded were taken as quickly as might be to the corps hospitals. These hospitals were as extensive as that at Windmill Point, and stretched over greater territory. Miles in some cases intervened between the corps,

and it was found several stations or centres would be necessary to supply them. Here again was a new work for the delegates of the Christian Commission. Three main stations were located in close proximity to the hospitals, and were known as Potomac Creek, Howard, and Brooks Stations.

Aquia Creek was still our base for supplies; but a new tent was pitched beyond and above the fever-breeding marsh, bringing the delegates nearer to the First and Twelfth Corps hospitals. Although at first and for several days the time was chiefly taken up in dressing wounds and helping to bathe and comfort the wounded, a system was soon arranged, giving a certain district or number of tents to each delegate. The first duty was to search out those who needed special articles of diet, or who required new shirts, drawers, or socks, supplying the wants of each personally as they were found from day to day. Boxes of lemons, jars of preserves, and an abundant variety of "good things," put up by friends of the soldier months before, were now given out freely by the hands of the delegates themselves. The stock of the Commission was almost exhausted by the calls made from each station for shirts and socks, bandages and lint, soap and towels, handkerchiefs and slings, dried fruits and preserves, pickles and lemons. Almost everything that the kind hearts of donors had prompted them to send found thankful recipients in these vast field hospitals.

To divert the minds of the convalescing as much as possible from their own condition, *libraries* were sent to the stations, whose books were greatly prized. Funerals, sometimes eight a day, were attended by the delegates, and as a crowd of soldiers gathered about the grave of a comrade the opportunity was not lost of leading their thoughts to the resurrection of the dead, when all should meet again. On the Sabbath, regular religious services were held, some in the open air, some in booths and tents, and each evening at the station chapel a prayer-meeting was held, often crowded to its utmost capacity.

Among the interesting features of this campaign, was the number of letters written for wounded men. The weekly reports show that hundreds of letters were written to home friends, who otherwise would have been left long in anxious suspense and doubt as to the condition of the loved son or husband

whom the papers had reported "*wounded* in the battle of Chancellorsville."

Very exhausting both to mind and body were these incessant labors, and nearly every delegate became worn out by excessive fatigue, and some barely escaped the grave. Those were precious services indeed rendered by the delegates of the Christian Commission, who as pastors and friends came to bring home comforts and spiritual consolation to the thousands of maimed, dying soldiers. *Precious services*, that wealth could never purchase, and for which the Christian Church, east and west, has great reason to rejoice.

Thus week after week passed away, bringing back health, strength, and vigor to many, but closing the earthly career of hundreds of those who lay upon the rude cots of these strange, sad cities of the wounded. The heat of summer followed the delightful days of spring. Still the Army of the Potomac lay quiet and harmless in the old winter camps.

"Why, this looks like a 'move,' captain!" said the field agent to the quartermaster at Falmouth, as an unusual activity was observed. "*And that it is*," was the laconic answer. "When will you require our tent?" "Before five o'clock." "You shall have it, sir." And this was the first intimation the Christian Commission had of that grand movement which in two short weeks formed the Army of the Potomac in line of battle on "Round Top" and "Cemetery Hill." *Two hours* in which to break up housekeeping! Yet in two hours the stores and household implements were packed, and the tent that for six months had been known to us as the "Falmouth Station," was rolled up and "turned in" to the quartermaster.

There was "mounting in hot haste" that afternoon, and a rapid ride from one to another of the seven stations then in operation. "Pack up and strike tents" was the order of the hour, and busy hands made quick work of it. At Potomac Creek was a wonderful chapel, just completed, built by delegates and soldiers, framed of poles cut from the woods and covered with old canvas collected from deserted camps. The next day was the Sabbath, and then this chapel was to be dedicated with

impressive ceremonies; but that night the sky was lurid for hours with the flames of the burning church.

That Sabbath was a busy day! From early dawn till evening was every man in the Commission hard at work. Some were aiding to remove the sick and wounded, who first of all were sent by boat to Washington; others were striking tents, boxing up stores, loading wagons, unloading cars, and finally loading all upon a barge that lay by the wharf, amid such confusion as beggars all description. At night everything was safely loaded, and the next day housed in the "rooms" in Washington.

But there was now no time for rest or delay; before night messengers were on their way to Fairfax Court-house, where was a station of the Commission, and where it was expected the army would be found. Nor were we disappointed. The line of the army extended from Fairfax over the Bull Run battle-field, stretching its right wing nearly to the Potomac.

It was thought by many, that another battle would be fought near the old fields of Bull Run and Chantilly, but a few days revealed the fact that the enemy had crossed the Potomac and were rapidly marching towards Pennsylvania. In the mean time a party of delegates, with a full equipment of stores, had pitched their tent near Fairfax depot. This was not done in vain, for during the four days the tent remained, between five and six hundred wounded and sick men were fed. Being apprised of the coming of long trains of ambulances bearing the wounded, three hundred, who had fallen at Aldie, hot coffee with sugar and milk, together with fresh bread, were waiting the nearly starved sufferers as they reached the cars. Seldom is a feast welcomed with greater joy than was that,—tears of gratitude were upon many cheeks. There was no one else who could have furnished this food to them, and if the Christian Commission had not been at hand, twelve or fifteen hours more would have passed before the poor sufferers, weak and fainting with hunger, would have found food.

On the night following, the feeding of the wounded prisoners taken at Aldie, and our own men who were there wounded, the hospitals of three cavalry brigades lying at Fairfax Court-house, were suddenly broken up, and the patients, between two and three hundred in number, some of them in a dying state, carried in

ambulances, over the roughest of all roads, to Fairfax Station, where many of them lay for hours on the floor of the depot, awaiting transportation to Washington.

The delegates who had been engaged all the previous night in their labor of love, now devoted themselves with fresh zeal to the work of feeding and nursing the wounded, provided, as they were able, for the sick, going around among them, giving them drink—coffee, tea, lemonade—bread spread with sweet butter and tempting preserves, to such as could eat, while speaking words of cheer as they continued their work. Said the master of transportation to one of the delegates, with tears rolling down his cheeks, "I had made up my mind that these Commissions were a humbug, but I tell you what it is, if there *is* any Christianity it is in the Christian Commission."

Everything was now veiled in obscurity; none could tell where the enemy were. Rumors of all sorts filled the air. Nothing could be done further than to fall back to Washington and Baltimore, prepare a large supply of battle-field stores, and stand ready to start forward whenever the word came.

It came at last, after long days of suspense,—the story of the first day's fight at Gettysburg. At once delegates started for the field, and before the smoke of the battle had cleared away, they were among the mangled forms of the fallen, doing with their might whatever their hands found to do. From this time, every train brought fresh supplies of men and stores, until over three hundred delegates, each assigned to his special post, with ample stores at his disposal, were seeking to alleviate the horrors of that bloody field.

But the work of the Christian Commission at Gettysburg has been described elsewhere by the pen of another, and we will not dwell upon it. Suffice it to say that, as at other fields of like character, the effort to relieve the temporal wants of the dying was blended with Christian counsel and consolation for their spiritual necessities, and as ever before, so here, the Holy Spirit attended such ministrations with the Divine benediction. Besides this corps of delegates among the hospitals of Gettysburg, another strong force, with ample and well-selected stores, followed the army in its pursuit of the enemy to the Potomac, but were spared the painful sights and duties for which they were prepared.

Two or three weeks now elapsed, before a new force was organized for effort in the army, which was then on its way from the Potomac River to Warrenton City. Nearly the entire force of the Commission was directed to Gettysburg, and to the supply of the permanent stations, so that but little material remained for a new effort, and as the old line of supply was entirely broken up, and the army so constantly in motion, new machinery was required, and a new plan to be matured. The last week in July, however, everything was in readiness, and with the new four-horse wagon, compactly stowed with tents and stores of hospital supplies and religious reading, a party of delegates left Washington for Warrenton Junction over the "pike." Going into camp, the first night, near Fairfax Court-house in company with a long train of wagons, heavily loaded with valuable goods, a circumstance occurred, that for a time promised to change the plans of the Commission quite materially. About midnight, a party of guerillas, with oaths, and revolvers in hand, dashed into camp, and were soon escorting the whole train, at a rapid pace, on the direct road to Richmond.

A "station" at "Libby" seemed the most probable result of the adventure. But a kind Providence, just as all hope of rescue was failing, delivered them out of the hands of their enemies, and they were, as the morning dawned, started once more on their way rejoicing. On the 2d of August, too weary to go farther, a tent was pitched near headquarters of the army at Germantown, where it remained as a useful station of the Commission until the 14th of September. A footing secured, and with the prospect of a month of quiet rest for the army, several stations were at once established,—one at Warrenton City, one among the hospitals of the First Corps at Rappahannock, another at Bealeton, and after a few weeks a fifth in the Third Army Corps. The sick of the army were not retained in the field, but sent at once to the hospitals of Washington; so that for six weeks the attentions of the delegates were mostly directed to the wants of the well. Many thousands of Testaments, hymn books, and religious papers were distributed throughout each corps, and meetings were organized and sustained at many places. At the chapel-tent at Bealeton, chaplains' meetings were held weekly, twenty or thirty being sometimes pre-

sent. It was the constant aim of the Commission, as it had ever been, to do all in its power to assist, encourage, and strengthen the hands of these devoted men, who, through summer's heat and winter's cold, have shared the perils and discomforts of the army life with those whom they desire to benefit, and who have had in too many instances to stand up alone against an active opposition, such as few servants of Christ in these days are called upon to meet.

At the tent in the Third Corps a most interesting scene was presented, the chapel being crowded at every service, soldiers coming from a distance to hear the truth proclaimed, and the Holy Spirit making this truth effectual to the conversion of many.

The work at all of these stations—each one useful and instrumental, we believe, in leading many souls to Christ,—was brought to an end in the middle of September by another advance of the army beyond Culpeper and to the banks of the Rapidan.

Extensive rooms were secured in the village for the office and warerooms of the Commission, and every preparation made for the battle that was each day expected. The cavalry was constantly in action, and every church in the village, besides the large Piedmont Hotel, was filled with their wounded and sick. Among these men for many days the delegates found such opportunities for relieving distress as are seldom presented. Hundreds were supplied with food prepared at the Commission rooms, and taken from ward to ward by the delegates themselves. Indeed in very many respects the work resembled that performed at the field hospitals in Falmouth five months before. Hundreds of letters were written for the feeble men, clothing and food were given to those found to be destitute, and religious counsel and comfort freely bestowed. Daily prayers were held in each ward of the hospitals, and an abundance of religious reading circulated. In addition to this, committees were appointed to visit different parts of the army with the supplies of papers as they were received, and many services were held in distant camps. As is the almost invariable custom of the Commission, a prayer-meeting was held each evening at the station, which soon became, as usual, a centre of great interest.

Very suddenly came "the advance" we were expecting, and

in a very unexpected direction. With scarcely time to send our superabundant stores to the cars, we were ordered off, and with a wagon loaded down heavily we started, upon what proved to be a most rapid and exciting retreat, into the line of wagons,—mules going on the run, flanked by columns of infantry, cavalry, and artillery; men on foot and men on horseback; officers, soldiers, sutlers, and contrabands, all mixed up in this grand exodus, and all intent to reach the eastern bank of the Rappahannock. Few scenes are more exciting than the retreat of the wagon-trains of an army,—the rapid run, the startling rumor, the sound of the approaching guns, the breaking wheel or overturn, the quivering bridges, poised high in air over some mountain stream, the deep "runs," where teams are "set" and left to the mercy of crushing wheels behind, give variety and interest to every mile of the road.

We started Sabbath morning, and on Thursday reached Fairfax Court-house, with our wagon shorn of its beauty, bearing away visible scars from the exciting contest. Stores were safe, and men were all right after a hearty meal and a day of sleep.

"Centreville Heights," the goal for which the armies were racing, was gained by the Army of the Potomac, and the rebels, satisfying themselves with the destruction of a railroad, slowly fell back to the Rappahannock. Some tedious days of uncertainty followed. The army, by slow stages, advanced, but with no expectation of meeting the enemy in force.

In the last week of the month a station was established at Gainesville, but was soon moved thence to Manassas Junction, and the first week in November transferred to Warrenton Junction. A few days of suspense were usefully employed by the delegates in making an extended distribution of religious reading and in holding evening meetings, that were largely attended and blessed to the conversion of some souls.

On the 7th day of November, after a sharp fight, the army crossed the Rappahannock and took up the old line of defence along the Rapidan.

A party started for the field hospitals with a wagon-load of stores, and after working two days among the wounded, went forward to Brandy, and established a new station.

For the next fortnight, the headquarters of the Commission

were at Brandy Station. A very large quantity of reading matter was there distributed, and from the station the clerical delegates went out to distant camps to preach.

Evident it was, however, that the campaign was not yet ended, and arrangements were perfected, so that the Commission could go with the army whenever it should again advance.

Two four-horse wagons were carefully loaded, principally with condensed food, stimulants and clothing; and a party was selected from the delegates to go forward. It was arranged that the remaining delegates should return to Alexandria by rail, and be ready to open communication with the army at the first point of supply, wherever it might be. Either Aquia Creek or Fredericksburg was, by many persons, supposed to be the destination of the army.

Early on Thanksgiving morning, the troops were moving. The tents were struck, the horses harnessed, final arrangements made, and at noon we joined the long line of headquarter wagons, and started out upon a journey whose destination was veiled in utter obscurity. The next day the Rapidan was safely passed, and "Robinson's Tavern," a wooden structure at the intersection of two roads in the "Wilderness," was reached the following morning. Here everything came to a full stop. The Third Corps crossing the river a few miles to the right of us, were attacked on the second day, and a fight of unusual severity resulted.

The wounded, numbering five or six hundred, were taken from the field and placed in ambulances, parked in a field about one mile from the Tavern. The weather was very cold, the nights being intensely bitter, and the condition of the wounded was truly pitiable. Blankets were unusually scarce, and in the morning it was a sad sight to see the chilled and shivering sufferers. A large fireplace was soon built, and all were busy preparing hot milk punch, and hot coffee, or in taking it from wagon to wagon until it was too late to do more. Early in the morning the same course was pursued. Milk punch was given freely, by the request and approval of the surgeons, and coffee, made nutritious with milk and sugar, was taken to all.

In some cases the division wagon containing food and cooking utensils was delayed in coming to the hospital, so that there

were some almost entirely dependent upon the Christian Commission for food. On Sunday and Monday, most of the wounded were removed from ambulances and laid in hospital tents; but the suffering from cold was still very great. All this time we were expecting the great battle would begin. Both armies were in position, and although the line of defence held by the enemy was very strong, it was expected an assault would be made, and we thought with sinking hearts of the unspeakable agony that must then ensue. Cut off entirely from any base of supply, food and forage already, in some places, beginning to fail, and the cold becoming more and more intense, we could but hope most earnestly that the cup might this time pass away.

Tuesday, the order came to return. The wounded were placed again in ambulances, and we repacked our wagons and took the place assigned to us at the head of the train, thus avoiding delay when coming to a halt at night.

All day we were jolting over such roads as we believe seldom fell to the lot of wounded men before. We could not endure the sight of these poor, exhausted men, sore and faint from wounds, tossed and thrown from side to side of their ambulance beds, all that long, long day. The Rapidan was recrossed in safety, and as the night came on, the train was parked in a field near its banks.

It was already late, and not a moment to be lost. A fire was kindled, water heated, buckets of milk punch prepared and taken to those most exhausted. Coffee and soda biscuit—carefully husbanded for the occasion—were then distributed in all parts of the camp.

Early in the morning the same work was repeated until the order to march was given, and we had barely time to take our place in the train.

Another day's cruel march. Until near midnight cutting our way through almost impassable swamps and forests, at length, as we could get no further, we were ordered into park on a low, flat marsh. An unpromising place it was! No wood, no water, and yet something *must* be prepared for those men, who, many of them starting off without a breakfast, have undergone the pains of hunger all this long day, else they will surely perish! Wood is sought and found a quarter of a mile away, and brought

on shoulders to the camp. A detail of soldiers is given, and they, after a long hunt in the darkness, return with pails of water. The fire is kindled, the water heated, and brandy punch made, and taken from ambulance to ambulance, until at two o'clock in the morning, it is declared that all have been reached.

In the morning the promise is given us that the train shall not start until we have fed them all. More extensive arrangements for a breakfast are made, the remaining barrels of crackers are opened, and, with hot coffee, distributed throughout the train.

Brandy Station, left behind us just one week before, as we then hoped, forever, was again welcomed as a link once more connecting us with a civilized world. One week previously we had gone forth with heavy loads and minds doubtful of the way before us. Now we returned with wagons empty and hearts full of gratitude that we had been privileged to minister to so many suffering soldiers. A tent was pitched near to the ambulances, and until the wounded were loaded upon the cars the delegates remained with them, and then accompanying them to Alexandria helped to convey them to comfortable beds at the hospitals. Such expressions of gratitude are seldom heard as fell from a hundred lips that night. The badge of the Christian Commission was a sure passport to the heart of any one of those who passed through that terrible ordeal during those "seven days in the wilderness." "Winter quarters" are at length ordered, the active campaign is closed, and the quiet winter days are to follow its months of toil and blood.

The winter work of the Christian Commission is again organized. With Brandy Station as a base for supplies, stations are already established in central parts of the army, and chapel-tents are already filled by earnest worshippers. The plan for the winter embraces the following items: Preaching the Gospel to troops destitute of chaplains; thorough distribution of religious reading; constant and personal inspection of field hospitals; assistance given chaplains in the erection of brigade or regimental churches.

Upon the action taken in Christian churches and in Christian homes depends, to a great extent, the success of this great plan.

Thus hastily and imperfectly have we sketched the main out-

lines of the work of the Christian Commission in the Army of the Potomac the past year. As we look back over its history, we see nothing for which to glory; but we see very much for which to be thankful to God in that He has seen fit to own and bless efforts that have been made in weakness. And as we look forward to the coming year, it is with hope and an expectation of still greater blessings at His hand.

The high appreciation of such services as those of the delegates for the sufferers who fell wounded at Mine Run, as described on page 48, is generously expressed in the following letter of Charles E. Cady, Surgeon-in-chief, Second Brigade, Third Division, Third Corps; to which it is altogether appropriate here to add the earlier letter of General Meade:

DR. CADY TO THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

HEADQUARTERS
SECOND BRIGADE, THIRD DIVISION, THIRD CORPS,
December 13, 1863.

DEAR SIR: A sense of duty compels me to thank, through you, the noble Christian Commission for the assistance afforded by its agent to the wounded of this brigade, before and during the late retrograde movement of the army from the Rapidan.

The wagon of the Commission was constantly at the hospital, in the field, and with the ambulance train during the retreat, and your agents seemed indefatigable in dispensing necessary food, medicine, bandages, stimulants, &c., to our wounded and sick, and I know that, through their enterprise and humanity, a great amount of suffering was alleviated. For six days and nights your agents were constantly employed in their work of Christian mercy; six bitter cold days and nights did they labor without cessation.

In the name of the wounded of my brigade, I tender you and the Commission most hearty thanks.

I am, dear sir, truly yours,

CHARLES E. CADY,
Surgeon-in-chief,
Second Brigade, Third Division, Third Corps.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
President Christian Commission, Philadelphia.

GENERAL MEADE TO THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
August 5, 1863.

GEORGE H. STUART,
Chairman United States Christian Commission, 13 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

DEAR SIR: I received recently, through the hands of Mr. Cole, your kind letter of the 27th ult. It will afford me very great pleasure to render you every encouragement and facility in my power to prosecute the good and holy work you have entered upon.

I assure you, no one looks with more favor upon the true Christian, who ministers to the spiritual wants of the dying or the physical wants of the wounded, than those who are most instrumental in the line of their duty in causing this suffering; hence you may rest satisfied that in this army your agents and assistants will receive every co-operation, and be treated with all the consideration due the important and noble work they are engaged upon.

I shall be glad to hear from you whenever anything occurs requiring my action, and shall always be ready, as far as the exigencies of the service and my authority will permit, to comply with your wishes.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

GEO. G. MEADE,
Major-General Commanding.

THE PENNSYLVANIA INVASION.

WHERE war interest concentrates, there Christian Commission work is demanded.

Gettysburg is the one memorable place in the history of the invasion of Pennsylvania by Lee and his hosts, both as the scene of the mighty conflict which hurled back the invaders and of the vast beneficent work of the Christian Commission in relieving those who fell wounded of both armies in the battle, and giving to them the comforts of the Gospel.

HARRISBURG, however, for a time was the absorbing place of interest and work. Next in importance to Philadelphia, the point of expected attack, the capital of the State, it was made the great gathering place of militia to repel the invasion, and of course also the gathering place of the good Samaritans of the Commission, with their warm hearts, ready hands, their oil and their wine. It was unknown where the rebel chief intended to strike. No one expected him to be overtaken by the national army at the little quiet college town of Gettysburg. Least of all, probably, did the citizens themselves anticipate the array of the contending lines on either side of them, with the boom of cannon, the rattle of musketry, and the hail of bullets, shot, and shell over and around them. Fitzhugh Lee had pushed north without resistance, taken York, sent a detachment to the Susquehanna opposite Columbia, checked there only by the burning of the bridge, and Carlisle was occupied. Everything seemed to indicate the Susquehanna as the probable line of defence on the north, and Harrisburg as the first prominent prize to be sought by the oncoming hordes.

The emergency drew together many thousands of men from New York and New Jersey, as well as from the different and distant sections of Pennsylvania. The call was so sudden that

they came, of course, poorly prepared for the vicissitudes of the march, the camp, or the battle. Many of them, fresh from counting rooms, law offices, and shops, would be sure to suffer and fall by the way long before they should be exposed to the hail-storm of death. The Government, however energetic and prompt, could not give the timely individual personal relief the circumstances required. Counselling with the authorities, military and medical, and with some of the wise and good men of the city, the good Samaritans of the Commission set up their own "inn," in the form of an immense tent, in which between two and three thousand could gather at one time for worship. This served many purposes. Whole regiments were lodged in it of men who were unaccustomed to exposure, and who must have been entirely without shelter but for our tent. The sick were cared for here until they could be transferred to the hospital or enabled to return to the ranks. Hungry wayfarers were refreshed. A free writing table was opened where hundreds, indeed thousands, were supplied with stationery and stamps, and enabled to write how it fared with them, to relieve the anxious ones at home. Testaments, books, papers, and tracts were supplied to those who needed and wished them, and religious services were held three times a day,—two for conference and prayer, and one for preaching. The best speakers possible were obtained to address these meetings, and the great tent was often so crowded that it was difficult to obtain a seat in it.

This establishment was in Camp Curtin, and from it, as a centre, delegates and supplies (especially of reading matter) were sent out to all the fortifications around the city.

When the number of sick and wounded carried through the city began to be large, a commodious three-story brick building near the railroad depot was rented and fitted up with beds, and with every convenience for cooking food and serving it to the hungry in large numbers at short notice. Here much suffering was relieved,—the weary were refreshed and strengthened for further fatigue.

The following letters from Lieut. Col. Ramsey, Major Ralston, and Governor Curtin, will show—the first, the value of the work in Camp Curtin, as it passed under the eyes of the officer in command; the second, the estimation in which the work in the sur-

rounding military positions was held by those for whom it was done; and the last, the impression made by the "Soldiers' Rest," near the railroad depot, upon the mind and heart of the patriot Governor of Pennsylvania.

HEADQUARTERS, CAMP CURTIN,
July 21, 1863.

Our quarters having been in immediate proximity to the Union Tabernacle Tent of the Christian Commission, we have watched the efforts to accommodate the men in camp, and desire to bear our testimony to the great benefits conferred through this channel upon the large numbers of soldiers gathered here. Though this sphere is less prominently before the eye of the public than the battle-field, its unobtrusive usefulness in meeting just those wants experienced by men suddenly called upon to leave home and friends, has been such as to draw forth the warmest commendations of all who have come within a knowledge of its operations. To those who have so liberally supported this noble and patriotic charity with funds, we beg leave to give the assurance that we not only have seen nothing like waste or unnecessary expenditure, but, on the contrary, have confidence that the money used in this department has been expended with judgment, and in such a way as to accomplish the greatest amount of good.

It would not be doing justice did we not mention the names of the gentlemen that have had charge of the tent. To Messrs. Horace J. Smith, Rev. J. H. Meacham, and others whose names we cannot recall, we owe many obligations.

J. F. RAMSEY,
Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Camp Curtin, Pa.

A. C. MAGER,
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS FORTY-NINTH REGT. PENNA. MILITIA,
PITTSTON, August 9, 1863.

HORACE J. SMITH, ESQ.,
Philadelphia.

DEAR SIR: I wish to acknowledge through you the very kind services rendered by the Christian Commission to the soldiers of Company A, of which I was formerly captain, in giving them

shelter from the rain on arriving at Camp Curtin, and immediately supplying them with hot coffee.

From my own observation during my stay at Camp Curtin and Fort Washington, the Commission, in their free distribution of writing materials, tracts, and Testaments to all, and their kind attention to sick soldiers, are doing a work which should enlist the sympathy of every true Christian.

Thanking you for your own personal attentions to myself and the men under my command,

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

F. W. RALSTON,

Major Forty-ninth Penna. State Militia.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, PA.,
August 5, 1863.

HORACE J. SMITH, ESQ.,

Harrisburg, Agent United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: The good work performed by your Commission has been made so manifest as to require no written testimonials. Its witnesses are throughout the army and amid the thousands of homes which, in all parts of our country, have sent their sons, fathers, and brothers to swell the number of our national defenders.

I cannot, however, refrain from expressing my earnest gratification at hearing of your "Rest" at this place, and the pleasure which I derived from my recent visit to it. The benefits of the establishment are of the most practical character, and reach a class whose wants never can be adequately accommodated but by such an arrangement. The travelling soldier, often without means and reduced by sickness, should not be allowed to suffer, nor be left to the chances of individual assistance.

Your "Rest" invites him with a welcome, renews his strength, and sends him on his way rejoicing. The good to be done in this way is incalculable, and I cannot forbear saying to you how highly I estimate its practical usefulness and wish for its continued success. Whenever I can take a moment of leisure amidst the pressure of official duties, it will afford me real gratification to again visit your establishment.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. CURTIN.

CAMP CURTIN, July 24, 1863.

TO THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

I cannot leave this camp without expressing my gratitude and thanks to the managers for their kindness to the returning soldier in administering to his temporal and spiritual wants in manifold ways.

My own experience is that of thousands. I came to this camp care-worn and weary, sick in body and mind; you received me as a brother, furnished me with reading matter of a noble character, preached the pure words of the Gospel, and manifested that brotherly sympathy so much needed by the soldier returning from the scenes of blood and carnage.

Go on, Christian brethren, and God will bless you in your labor of love.

GEO. R. AMIDON,
Sergeant Company H, 169th Penna. State Militia.

P. S. As soon as circumstances will permit, I will make a liberal donation to Commission.

CARLISLE was also a place of some excitement and interest just on the eve of the great battle. It was first occupied and evacuated by a part of Lee's army; then occupied by our militia under General Smith, and attacked by Fitzhugh Lee, but not taken. Four delegates of the Christian Commission followed the command of General Smith from Harrisburg, overtook them on the way and marched with them into Carlisle. The citizens met them with the greatest demonstrations of joy, cheered them, and brought out refreshments for them. Quickly, however, the cry came, "The rebels are upon us!" and the citizens dispersed, leaving the refreshments behind.

The first salutation by Lee was the booming of his cannon. He planted his guns to sweep the main street, where the Union troops were stationed. His fire was returned by one gun of Landis's battery placed in the street. After four shots, General Smith gave orders to cease, and kept the enemy at bay by fear of a trap. Fourteen of our men were wounded; two of them mortally. The wounded were conveyed to the College, where, under direction of Dr. Neill, they were tenderly cared for by

the delegates of the Christian Commission and citizens of the town. Singularly enough, the first man wounded, and the first to receive aid from the delegates, was young Stuart Patterson, the son of Joseph Patterson, Treasurer of the Christian Commission.

This was Wednesday afternoon and night, the very time when the great battle was begun at Gettysburg; and that night, or rather next morning at 3 o'clock, Fitzhugh Lee hastily withdrew toward the scene of conflict, probably recalled by an order from his chief.

Before entering upon the history of the Good Samaritan work on the great field, it may be well to follow on with that which was done for the command of General Smith on its march toward the anticipated scene of a second great battle on the banks of the Potomac.

Part of the delegates returned from Carlisle with the sick and wounded sent to Harrisburg. John Patterson, however, went on with the troops. At Pine Grove, a wheelwright's shop was obtained near Watt's iron furnace, and about forty disabled men gathered into it. They had lain twenty-four hours without food or care. Mr. Patterson distributed to them all his remaining stores, and greatly relieved them. Subsequently, at Hagerstown, where other delegates were sent, essential service was rendered to Dr. Neill in bringing order out of the confusion he found in the hospital, and in benefiting the sick and wounded under his charge. Of this the following letter gives gratifying evidence:

HEADQUARTERS OF GEN. W. F. SMITH'S FORCES,
HAGERSTOWN, MD., August 10, 1863.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
President United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: The opportune kindnesses which have been conferred on the sick and wounded of this command, have been so numerous that I should be unmindful of my duty did I not make to you some acknowledgment.

The rapidity with which the emergency troops were organized, and the want of those comforts with which the old organizations of veteran troops are always provided, rendered the personal assistance of the members of the Christian Commission, as well

as their contributions in delicacies and comforts, particularly grateful at the bombardment of Carlisle.

In the Department of Western Virginia, at Hagerstown, and at Williamsport, where there are now large numbers of wounded left by both armies, your representatives were most efficient, and to the United States Christian and Sanitary Commissions suffering soldiers, both Union and rebel, owe many thanks.

The willingness of your agents to receive instructions and to co-operate with the medical officers in the performance of laborious and responsible duties, must render them at all times most welcome assistants to army surgeons.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. NEILL,

Surgeon United States Volunteers and Medical Director.

GETTYSBURG.

Introductory to the report of the principal work of the United States Christian Commission on the bloody field of Gettysburg, the following letter of R. G. McCreary, Esq., will be of great historic interest and value. Mr. McCreary is a prominent citizen and lawyer of that place, was one of the most indefatigable laborers through all the time that the Commission retained direct control of the work, and subsequently took the entire supervision of it as chairman of the Army Committee to whom it was assigned, when the field agents of the Commission were withdrawn for other and more urgent service elsewhere.

GETTYSBURG, PA.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.

DEAR SIR: Our Christian Commission work here is finished; the thousands of wounded men lately around us have gone; the tents that whitened our fields have been removed; the "pomp and circumstance of war," infantry, artillery, cavalry, ambulance and army wagon, have disappeared from our streets; all have gone save the "unreturning brave," whose bivouac covers the slope of Cemetery Hill, and the thousands of their deluded

foes, who, with valor worthy of a better cause, threw away their lives in vain efforts to break the wall of fire and steel which crossed their path to victory, and whose undistinguished graves dot and scar the landscape for miles around.

Being resident here, my work commenced with the movements preceding the great struggle of the first days of July, which decided the fate of the national capital, and probably of the Southern Confederacy. For several days previous the movements of detached portions of the hostile armies, like scudding clouds whose rapid and diverse flight precede and portend the hurricane, seemed plainly to indicate the approach of the tremendous conflict of those days. On the 26th day of June a regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers arrived from Harrisburg, and marched to Marsh Creek on the Chambersburg turnpike, from which direction it was understood a portion of the rebel army threatened an advance. After their departure, my attention was called to two young men lying in a wet and dirty apartment at the railroad station, sick and unable to travel. I had them immediately taken to my house and put to bed, where, by medical skill and careful nursing, they were so far recovered in a few days as to be able to join a party of their comrades in a successful attempt to reach their regiment, which in the meantime had made a hasty retreat before the advance of Early's division of Ewell's corps, which occupied the town on the 26th of June, and the next day moved on towards the Susquehanna. Two days later a brigade of cavalry under General Kopelin arrived from the direction of Frederick, Maryland, and, as they expected a fight and had no hospital stores, at the request of their surgeon a number of our ladies were assembled, and the Sabbath was spent in the preparation of lint and bandages. They were not needed, however, as the cavalry fell back the next morning; but the supply thus provided proved very valuable a few days later.

In the morning of the 30th of June, a strong reconnoitering force of rebels advanced on the Chambersburg turnpike to the Seminary ridge overlooking the town; they interrogated a citizen as to the presence of "Yankee soldiers," and were told that there were a great many in the neighborhood. This information, false in fact, and intended to deceive, may have prevented them

from taking possession of the town at that time, and they fell back several miles towards the mountains.

In the afternoon of the same day, Buford's cavalry division entered the town from the south, and passed a mile to the northwest on the Chambersburg and Manassasburg turnpikes, and halted for the night. Their medical officer requested accommodations for six or eight men of the command who were sick. I procured the use of the railroad depot, and with a couple of assistants soon had it cleared out and twenty comfortable beds carried in and arranged, and they were soon all filled with suffering men, for whom an abundant supply of suitable food and delicacies was speedily furnished by the families in the neighborhood, until the events of the succeeding day caused them to be removed to the rear of our army.

The battle on the first of July commenced about the middle of the forenoon between the rebels advancing on the Chambersburg turnpike and Buford's cavalry, who, as the infantry of the First Army Corps came up and formed in line of battle, slowly retired to the rear. The approaching storm was watched with intense anxiety by the citizens, who, crowding to their housetops, cheered the advance of our brave troops; but it was not long until the boom of cannon, the bursting of shell, the rattle and crash of heavy infantry firing along the ridges west of the town, and the stream of litters which began to move in from the field of carnage, brought them to realize the fact that a fierce and bloody contest was in progress.

Descending from my chimney-top, and gathering up a basket of bandages, with basin, sponge, scissors, and pins, I hastened to the nearest hospital, which I found in a warehouse about two hundred yards from my residence. I went to work with my coat off, and saw no more of the battle until the middle of the afternoon, though there was abundant evidence in the many mangled and bleeding forms constantly coming in, and the louder and increasing crash of arms, that the conflict was a most terrible one, and was rapidly approaching the town. At length, the frequent explosion of shells in the immediate neighborhood—one of them passing through a corner of the warehouse—reminded me that I had a wife and family of children under fire, and therefore, reluctantly leaving my work, I hastened to look after them.

Finding all safe, I ascended to the house-top for another view of the battle, and found that our army was falling back, and soon the rush and roar of the retreat and battle in the streets banished everything else from our minds. That was a terrible night. Our army had been driven back; the town was full of armed enemies. We saw and heard the progress of pillage all around us, and knew not how far it might proceed; but we trusted in the Lord and were safe.

The morning of July the second revealed a dreadful sight,—dead horses and dead men lay about the streets, and there were none to bury them. Our first care was for the multitude of wounded men now suffering for want of food. I sallied forth, taking care to lock the door after me. Arms and armor were strewn around and trodden into the mud. I found the bakeries were in the hands of the rebels, and not a loaf or cracker remained; the butchers' cattle had been driven away or confiscated, and no meat could be procured; the groceries were broken open, and their contents carried away or destroyed by troops of rebels, who, like hungry wolves, roamed through the streets in search of plunder. The citizens had freely distributed to our own soldiers for several days previous, and had little left in their houses, and, as we were entirely cut off from the world without the rebel lines, there was no possibility of procuring a supply; but they did what they could, even denying their own families food in order to give something to the suffering men. In my own family, in anticipation of what had occurred, we had a good supply of coffee and other articles now most needful; a twelve-gallon boiler was many times replenished, and its contents carried in buckets to the different hospitals within reach, and with baskets of bread and other edibles distributed among the men, served to relieve the pangs of hunger in many a brave sufferer.

In the rear of my residence is an open lot, on which a rebel commissary cut up and distributed beef to a company or battalion of cavalry quartered near. My wife solicited and obtained from him the beef-bones left on the ground, and had them conveyed to her kitchen, and there washed, cut up, and speedily converted into excellent beef-soup, until in this way probably one hundred gallons of this nourishing food had been distributed to the different hospitals, thus furnishing a most grate-

ful and timely relief to the poor fellows, many of whom were not in condition to partake of solid food.

Our surgeons, who remained with these men and permitted themselves to be taken prisoners, were greatly embarrassed for want of medical supplies, as the rebels would not or could not supply any, and instances were mentioned in which they carried off those provided for our men. The ladies of the town freely devoted their linen and muslin goods to supply bandages and lint; but the lack of medicines was not so easily remedied.

In one of the hospitals were several cases requiring operations, in which anodynes were necessary, and I undertook to find any that might be in town. Calling at a drug store which was closed, the owner came to the door, and said he had nothing of the kind in the house, and added in a whisper, "Call again; there is a rebel officer in the store searching for some." At another establishment I succeeded in getting a pound of chloroform, which was brought from some mysterious hiding-place, and for which the owner declined accepting any compensation.

Allow me here to remark, that the stories which have been published charging the people of this town with a want of hospitality toward the soldiers, are basely false. I do not believe any community has exhibited more generous devotion towards those thrown upon their hands. The circumstances in which they were placed made it impossible for them to afford full relief, but to the extent of their ability, as a general rule, and beyond their ability, they hesitated not to contribute in aid of the suffering multitudes around them. In those days of suffering I gathered bread from house to house, and the last loaf and half loaf was always cheerfully given. In every community there are heartless and sordid persons to be found, and doubtless there are such here; but they are exceptions. In the Army of the Potomac there were skulkers, who, when their comrades were fighting, hung in the rear and plundered the farm-houses. Shall we therefore charge that noble army with cowardice and robbery? Not less unjust is it to accuse the citizens of Gettysburg of faults which a few individuals may have committed. During the battle of the first day, when the rebel shells were shrieking and bursting around the hospitals, even the women were found in the midst of the wounded men as they were carried

in from the field, doing all in their power to administer to their comfort; and from that time all through those terrible days, and afterwards down to the close, in every hospital in town and around it, at all times, with a devotion that never flagged, nor counted any sacrifice too great, our noble women were found, like angels of mercy, binding up wounds and administering cordials and viands, with gentle words of sympathy, more grateful to the sufferers than even the food necessary for their subsistence. Ask the many hundreds of wounded men who filled the warehouses, halls, churches, and so many of the private dwellings of the town during this trying period, what they think of the hospitality of the people of Gettysburg, and I am sure the citizens will be satisfied with their verdict.

The rebels, though disposed to help themselves, were generally civil and even respectful towards the citizens. A circumstance, however, occurred in the forenoon of Friday, July 3d, which for a while seemed likely to produce trouble. A soldier of a Virginia regiment, sitting in front of the Franklin House, on the public square, was shot through the breast by a minie ball fired by a sharp-shooter in a house near the Cemetery, a full half mile distant. As he lay writhing in agony, a crowd of his comrades gathered around, and insisted that he had been shot from some of the houses near the square, and threatened summary vengeance. I had gone to render any possible aid to the dying man; but finding that nothing could be done for him, was bathing his face when the excitement arose. I remonstrated with them, and after some time succeeded in convincing them that they were mistaken, and the affair passed off with apparently sincere thanks for my kindness to the dying man. The practice of sharp-shooting made it sometimes dangerous for persons on the streets. I had the day previous experienced a narrow escape from injury. As I was passing with my basket of bandages along Baltimore Street, I was greeted with the peculiar sound of a minie close by my ear, and at the instant a drooping twig was cut by it from a tree just in front of me. The incident did not prevent my going the same round again; but it made me careful to walk as close as convenient to the walls of the houses.

The rebel officers, until Friday, seemed to be entirely confi-

dent of success. One of them said to me in the forenoon of Thursday that they would not remain with us more than a few hours, as General Lee had his plan of battle nearly arranged, and they would move forward, and he seemed to think with assured success. He said they had one hundred thousand men on this field, and boasted of their complete appointments and invincibility. The same night, at a late hour, several officers on horseback stopped in front of my dwelling, where several gentlemen, anxious for information, entered into conversation with them; they were in good spirits, and said they had advanced both wings of their army and had taken one of our batteries in the centre; they extolled General Lee as the great master of the military art, and spoke of his admirable strategy in making a grand feint towards Philadelphia, in order to concentrate his army here for an attack on Baltimore and Washington. About this time a squad of soldiers passing were halted, and asked to what they belonged. They replied to the Second Louisiana Brigade. They were then asked if they had taken that battery, and they replied that they had to "come out," and could not take it. The officers were silent. These men said the next day that they had but fifty men left in their brigade after that assault; they were the "Louisiana Tigers," of whom those officers had boasted that *they had never been driven back in a charge, and never would be.*

A great many of the rebel soldiers seemed to have no affection for the service, and would gladly leave it if possible. This we found by conversation with their wounded men in the hospitals, and did space permit, many incidents might be related showing that this feeling is common in the army, and that the soldiers are kept in the ranks solely by force of stern and inexorable military law. A gentleman living in the south end of the town, whose house was occupied by rebel sharp-shooters, who drove him and his family into the cellar, relates that, creeping out after dark to feed his cow, he encountered one of these men alone in the stable, and entered into conversation with him. He declared that he had been compelled to enter the army, and wept when he spoke of his wife and children, from whom he had been forced away; he was anxious to be assisted in getting within our lines; but that was impossible, as the intervening

space was covered by the fire of the pickets of both armies. The next morning our skirmishers advanced and killed or captured this entire party, and this man's rifle was found two-thirds filled with cartridges, showing that he had refused to fire at the Union troops.

On Friday night the rebel army quietly withdrew from the town to the crest of the Seminary ridge, and at daylight our skirmishers drove out or captured their stragglers and pickets. It was truly a joyful morning to the citizens, who felt as if some dreadful incubus had been removed; and though it was a day of alarm from the apprehension that the rebel batteries might open on the town, still it was evident that they were retreating, and that relief was at hand. As soon as the town was clear of the rebel lines, supplies began to come in, and those in hospitals here were made as comfortable as circumstances permitted; but there was still in the fields—the scene of the first day's fight—a large number who for two days more could not be reached, and whose sufferings must have been, beyond description, severe.

R. G. McCreary.

The battle of Gettysburg was fought on three successive days (July 1, 2 and 3, 1863), resulting in a decisive Federal victory, though with great loss on both sides. God was in the tide of the battle; but He was no less in the vast machinery and material of relief speedily called into existence to supply the demands created by it. Two great armies, with scanty supplies of food and medicine, and these selected without special reference to the wants of wounded men, had met in mortal conflict. The field of combat was in a country rich in the products of the soil, though now barren as a wilderness. Near the largest cities of the continent, with their exhaustless supplies, it was yet completely isolated, and consequently destitute. While the dead still lay unburied by the highways, and the helpless wounded upon the field were numbered by thousands, the call of the bugle summoned the victors to pursuit, the strong soldier from the side of the dying, the loved comrade from re-

ceiving the last messages of affection for friends at home, the faithful surgeon from the pierced skull, the mangled flesh, and the broken limb. Could it be possible that only twenty men of all classes and ranks were detailed to minister to the wants of the three thousand who were wounded in a single corps? Yet so it was, for it was whispered that this was but the beginning of the issue; that we were upon the eve of other and bloodier battles.

The Christian Commission in occupying the field thus necessarily abandoned by our army only enlarged the operations which it had already begun. Two of the delegates of the Commission, Rev. B. B. Howard, a brother of Major-General Howard, and Rev. J. G. Chamberlain, both from Maine, having accompanied the army in its march from Leesburg, were on the ground during the entire progress of the battle, and gave their personal attention to the wants of the wounded as they fell. At the same time, R. G. McCreary, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Gettysburg, instead of seeking a place of safety for himself, directed all his efforts to the alleviation of the sufferings of those who were wounded in the first day's fight, while attempting to defend and hold the town. Officers and men who were aided by these delegates, have repeatedly spoken of the assistance they received during the battle from the Christian Commission, and of the probability of their death had they not been thus aided.

Soon after the conflict ceased an additional number of delegates, who had followed the army from Aquia Creek and Fairfax, with supplies, reached the field by way of Baltimore and Westminster. At Westminster, meeting hundreds of the wounded from the battle-field, without a surgeon to care for them, a part halted and assisted in the establishment of hospitals in that place, and in providing for the wants of their inmates. Among those to whom they ministered were Major-General Hancock and his aid, General Miller. After much difficulty, through the aid of General Buford, a party of delegates arrived with their stores at the hospital of the Second Corps. These stores they divided among the wounded of the Second, Third, and Fifth Corps, and thus relieved the wants of many a poor soldier, while pointing him to Jesus, before supplies or laborers arrived from any other source.

During Saturday and Sunday delegates continued to arrive, walking, some of them, nearly fifteen miles, through mud and rain, in order to be at their posts the sooner. On Monday, F. E. Shearer, Esq., agent of the Commission at Washington, D. C., reached the town of Gettysburg, where he found a number of the delegates already occupied in the hospitals, with the centre of their operations at the office of R. G. Harper, Esq., editor of the "Adams Sentinel." Through the aid of Mr. J. Bevan, Mr. Shick's store was soon obtained as a depot for supplies, the only such depot in town till another was opened by Adams' Express Company, twenty-four hours afterwards, and a third twelve hours later still by the Sanitary Commission. The neighboring auxiliaries of the Commission, and the inhabitants of the surrounding counties, had already begun to send in supplies, which were given to the Christian Commission. These were of every possible variety, and were brought in all sorts of wagons. Before nightfall of Monday probably not less than fifteen loads of provisions had been received and distributed. Both delegates and stores continued to arrive, and long before the cars were running, two extensive rooms were being constantly filled with and emptied of provisions for the needy.

On Tuesday (July 7) two large loads of the choicest hospital supplies from Philadelphia, comprising something like eighty boxes, and accompanied by nearly thirty delegates, came around the mountain from Carlisle by way of Dillsburg, in order to avoid Stuart's cavalry, which at the time was said to be lurking in the woods between Carlisle and Gettysburg. About this time other loads of stores arrived from Columbia, Harrisburg, York, and the "Patriot Daughters," of Lancaster.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday the town of Gettysburg presented a sad and woeful appearance. Guns were scattered in the streets or piled upon the sidewalks. Pavements were stained with blood. Every church and public building, and in fact every private house, was filled with wounded men. Women had gone out into the streets while the battle was in progress, and washing the wounds of our soldiers, had carried them to their own homes, where they kindly ministered to them until they died, or were able to be removed to a more suitable place. The Seminary and College buildings were occupied by

rebel wounded, as were the barns and sheds, west and south of the town, towards Chambersburg and Emmetsburg. More than twenty thousand men in all were in and around Gettysburg at the beginning of the week following the battle. Of these many were but slightly wounded, and with a little assistance and encouragement were able to walk. For several days, therefore, after the battle a stream of Federal soldiers, weary, weak from loss of blood, hungry and disheartened, could be seen coming in from the various field hospitals which had been suddenly extemporized three or four miles from town, hoping to find cars ready to take them to Baltimore or Philadelphia. To feed these men, to wash their wounds, to give them clean clothing, to encourage them to continue their journey till they should reach the place, a mile beyond the town, where the trains were at first obliged to stop, was a part of our work. An eating saloon was, therefore, imperatively called for, and immediately established, by the Christian Commission, at which, in the words of Dr. Bellows, "some thousands of tired and hungry soldiers were fed." The superintendence of this saloon was undertaken by Mr. Louis Muller, of Baltimore, a work in which he was assisted by Mr. Woodward, of the same city, both delegates, who cooked the food eaten, and personally attended to its distribution. In this work Mr. Woodward furnished an example of the most untiring industry and devotion, laboring till near midnight, rising with the first dawn of day, and deserves to be held in lasting remembrance for his faith and zeal and labors of love. This saloon was kept in full operation by us till the Sanitary Commission proposed to take that work off our hands. As we had more than we could do to take care of the severely wounded, this offer was gladly accepted. Mr. A. H. Brown and other delegates of the Christian Commission, helped the agents of the Sanitary Commission to pitch their tents near the railroad depot, and we thankfully gave over the feeding of hungry soldiers, at this point, into their hands.

As soon as possible after the close of the battle, stations of the Christian Commission were established in the corps hospitals, a competent delegate appointed to take charge of each, who was called the captain of it, and other delegates assigned to work under his direction, subject, however, to the orders of the

surgeon in charge, to whom all were to report themselves in the first instance for instruction in the work which they should perform. In every corps hospital, with a single exception, that of the Sixth Corps, there was a tent occupied by the stores and delegates of the Commission. The work in each of these corps hospitals, though in many points similar, was yet so different as to need to be described by itself, or to be studied in connection with the reports of the delegates who worked in a particular corps. We can here give only a general survey of the whole field, leaving incidents entirely out of sight, and naming only those delegates who had charge of the work in a particular field, though others, whose record is on high, equally deserve notice.

In some respects the work in the Second Corps hospital was the most interesting and important. There were at least twenty-five hundred wounded men in this hospital, which was located at first (though afterwards removed to a better situation) in a grove about a mile south of the Baltimore pike, and between two and three miles from town. The men here were in a terrible condition. They lay upon the damp ground, many of them with nothing under them. In this hospital there were an unusually large number of amputations, the amputated stumps lying directly upon the ground, except when now and then elevated a little upon a handful of straw or a bunch of old rags. Many of the men, perhaps most of them, were in want of clothing. Suitable food was not to be had. The surgeons were overworked. There was an insufficient number of attendants, every able-bodied man that could possibly be spared having accompanied the army in its pursuit of Lee.

Into this field, as already intimated, the Christian Commission entered. A tent was pitched, at first in the Third Division of the Second Corps, under the direction of Rev. J. E. Adams, of New Sharon, Maine, and J. B. Stillson, Esq., of Rochester, N. Y. Here a dozen delegates had their headquarters, while they sought to alleviate pain, with all the energy which the sight of suffering can arouse. Another tent, and still another, was pitched in the First and Second Divisions of the same corps, where the Rev. R. C. Matlack, with a company of delegates from Philadelphia, and Mrs. Moore and her daughter, sent by

the Commission from Baltimore, labored incessantly for several weeks. Other ladies from differents parts of Pennsylvania did a good work in this corps, cooking and supplying choice dishes of nourishing food for the languishing men.

In addition to the twenty-five hundred previously mentioned, there were nearly or quite a thousand rebels, most of them severely wounded, lying on the outskirts of this hospital, shrieking and crying for assistance continually. The appearance of those connected with the hospital of the Third Division of this corps beggars description. Destitute of clothing, many of them nearly naked and covered with filth, without tents, lying in the mud—for the sudden rise of the little stream by which they had been placed rendered it impossible to avoid this—cursing, praying, begging their attendants or visitors to put an end to their sufferings by taking their lives, here one and yonder another laid out by himself to die, these wretched men made the strongest appeal to Christian sympathy and benevolence. Nor was their appeal unheeded. Physicians who had come out under the direction of the Commission were immediately sent to their relief, to dress their wounds and to prescribe for their necessities, while stores were freely distributed among them by Messrs. Adams and Stillson and their associates. Nor did this work cease till every wounded man was made comfortable, every wound dressed, every necessary amputation performed, tents issued for their accommodation, underclothing distributed, and those who were able to endure it sent to Baltimore or Philadelphia, while the rest were conveyed to the general hospital established on the other side of the town. Hardly less thorough than this was the work performed in the First and Second Divisions of the corps. Mr. Matlack and those associated with him were untiring in their efforts to make our soldiers comfortable, dressing wounds themselves, giving without stint while their stores held out, then telegraphing to Philadelphia for more, and only remitting their exertions when the necessity for them had passed away.

When all who could be had been removed to the general hospital, there were nearly four hundred left on the ground, severe cases of amputation, compound fracture, &c., of whom probably not more than one-third lived. Among these men,

many of whom suffered excruciatingly, some of our delegates continued to labor till the last, through the surgeons and in connection with other commissions supplying their bodily wants, but seeking chiefly to direct them to the Great Physician for the healing of the soul. Many gave evidence of a renewed state. Especially was this true among the rebels. And as the delegates went through their tents you would hear the inmates invoke blessings upon their heads, and beg them to stop and pray and sing. A more glorious work was never engaged in. The blessings of philanthropy were not simply seen, but felt.

The following letter from Dr. McAbee shows the surgeons' appreciation of the delegates and their work:

HOSPITAL, THIRD DIVISION, SECOND CORPS,
NEAR GETTYSBURG, PA., July 15, 1863.

MESSRS. STILLSON, ADAMS, FIELDS,
AND OTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

GENTLEMEN: Please allow me to say that the society which you represent more than earned a right to the title it has assumed, in the work it did at Gettysburg for the wounded of this Division. The supplies of food and clothing furnished were wisely selected, and generously and judiciously distributed, and the agents sent, by the manliness of their bearing, the unpretending devotion with which they gave themselves to the work, and the Christian-like deportment which characterized their conduct throughout, stamped them as being eminently fitted for the work of faith and labor of love to which they had been assigned.

Such laborers will always be welcome where large-hearted, true men are needed.

H. M. MCABEE,
Surgeon in charge.

The work of the Commission in the First Corps was equally thorough and scarcely less interesting. The hospitals belonging to this corps were widely separated, some of them being in the town, where many had been wounded on the first day of the battle, occupying the Presbyterian church, the Catholic church and the Court-house, while others, filled with those who had

been wounded later in the conflict, were four miles away, towards Littlestown, on the Baltimore pike, on either side of the road, in houses and barns and open fields. A great number of delegates were employed in supplying the wants of these hospitals.

The work of the Commission in the hospitals out of town, especially those belonging to the Second Division of the First Corps, were at first under the direction of Mr. H. M. Stevens, of Maine, who labored with great acceptance and success. Religious meetings were also established, which were attended with much interest. The labors of the Rev. A. G. McAuley, of Philadelphia, and his party, were very acceptable to the men in these hospitals. He visited them frequently, conversed with them on religious subjects, prayed with them, while he endeavored to make their bodily condition more comfortable. Some idea of his work may be formed from the fact, that on one day he gave a glass of lemonade to each one of more than a thousand men, at the same time leaving them an abundance of suitable food. It may not be inappropriate in this connection to speak of the gratitude which a company of soldiers occupying a garret manifested on another occasion, when a piece of fresh bread and butter was presented to each of them, of the eager attention they gave when addressed in regard to their souls' salvation, and of the grateful feelings of hundreds of others, lying in barns, in the driveways, in the stables, in the bays, on the lofts, to whom on that same day large slices of soft bread, spread with sweet butter and the choicest preserve, were given: their hearty words of acknowledgment and their readiness to listen to the truths of the Gospel can never be forgotten. Those belonging to the First Division of this corps, who lay in White Church, were fortunate in having the attention of Mrs. Spencer, from New York, who drew freely from both the Sanitary and the Christian Commission, in order that her patients might want for nothing.

In town, a great variety of laborers were employed. The Rev. Mr. McCullough, of Philadelphia, with the aid of one or two other delegates, at the surgeon's request, made bunks for all of the patients in the Catholic church, raising them from the floor, cleaned out the wet, musty straw, obtained fresh sweet bedding,

swept the entire house, fixed the windows so that they could be lowered from the top, and together with the Sisters of Charity, who never wearied in deeds of kindness, washed and fed the men. The same work was done in the church opposite, and in the Court-house, by Mrs. Brainard and Mrs. Barnard, of Michigan, who entered upon the same at the suggestion of the Christian Commission, and in the Presbyterian church, except that bunks were not here made. In all the hospitals in town, and they were very many, delegates were at work, in some doing more, in others less. The Rev. I. O. Sloan made it his whole business to go from place to place, ministering to cases of necessity, and speaking words of comfort and consolation to all with whom he met. Always, when possible, words of Christian exhortation were spoken, the dying directed to Jesus, and prayer-meetings and Sabbath exercises held. But at first, the relief of bodily suffering necessarily occupied a great part of our attention, sometimes seemingly, though not really, to the neglect of spiritual interests. In all branches of the work, however, the delegates of the Commission served it so faithfully as to call forth from scores the expressed hope, that it would not leave the ground while a single soldier remained to be cared for. Hundreds of soldiers, too, belonging to different corps, lying in private houses throughout the town, received their daily food, obtained and prepared for them by citizens of the place, directly from the rooms of the Commission.

The Third Corps hospital lay in a field southeast of that of the Second Corps, a mile or more from the Baltimore pike, and nearly four miles from town. The men in this corps, though very great sufferers, did not appear to have been so severely wounded as many in other corps, so that our work among them, though interesting and profitable, was not so indispensable as it seemed to be elsewhere. Perhaps we did not accomplish quite as much here as we should, had not the Rev. W. S. Alexander, of Pomfret, Connecticut, to whom the charge of the work was assigned, and whom we supposed to be on the ground, received several dangerous wounds, while quietly attending to his duties, from an intoxicated major, who, it should be added, to the credit of Major-General Birney and the War Department, was promptly arrested and finally dismissed the service, while Mr. Alexander received

every possible attention from the commanding officers. The occurrence of this event disarranged our operations at first, rendering them less systematic and orderly than elsewhere. As soon, however, as the true state of affairs was known, a tent was obtained and the services of several very efficient delegates secured, who labored with great success and with a zeal and devotion which only the love of Christ can excite.

Connected with the hospital of the Third Corps was a barn, full of wounded rebels, who were in a most destitute condition. Some of them were half buried in the dark filthy water concealed under the hay, so often strewed on the bottom of barn cellars. Others were on the ground-floor of stables, others in sheds, and some lay in the shadow of the fences which lined the narrow lane on which the barn stood. Hungry, weary, discouraged, necessarily neglected by our own over-occupied surgeons, these rebels were all thrown upon the hands of the Christian Commission. If other agencies supplied their wants to any great extent, we did not know it. Delegates who were physicians were sent them, who, sleeping among them as they could, and eating what was easiest obtained, bound up wounds, amputated limbs, and gave them nourishing soups and stimulating drinks, while they never forgot the religious wants of their patients. They were aided by a young lady from Chelsea, Massachusetts, who cooked and distributed food. Interesting conversions here took place, and we cannot doubt that it will appear at the last day that many laid the foundation of their new life in this old barn, through the labors and in answer to the prayers of the Christian men who so willingly ministered unto them. This work also continued till the prisoners were removed either to the general hospital or sent to Baltimore or Philadelphia, from whence they were finally carried to Chester, where they received the best of care and attention.

The Fifth Corps' hospital was in sight of that of the Third Corps, and not many rods distant. The men here, though needy, were kindly cared for. Rev. R. J. Parvin, of Philadelphia, a man of great executive ability, who had been a delegate to several battle-fields, superintended the work in this corps. The worst cases were collected together by themselves in a barn, a short distance from the main hospital, where

Mr. Parvin gave them his personal attention, laboring among them all the day, praying with them at all hours, allowing himself to be called up during the night, comforting the dying, writing the messages of the living, attending to the burial of the dead, and distributing articles of food and clothing directly under the eye of the surgeon in charge. In each of the divisions of this corps delegates were employed, whose business it was to inform themselves of the wants of all in their department, and either supply their wants themselves or report deficiencies to Mr. Parvin, who saw that the needed articles were promptly provided. When Mr. Parvin left his work, he was succeeded by Rev. George Bringhurst, of Philadelphia, who trod in the footsteps of his predecessor, and whose genial countenance and loving words were everywhere welcome. So perfectly systematized was the work in this corps, that it seemed far less extensive than it really was, though just in proportion as system was introduced was the amount of available labor increased.

The remainder of the Sixth Corps, numbering only a few hundreds, and lying near to those of the Fifth Corps, were added to Mr. Parvin's charge, though the bodily wants of these sufferers were chiefly supplied by other agencies than our own, either by Government, by some of the various relief societies, or by the Sanitary Commission. The surgeon in charge, when asked what should be sent him, replied that he needed nothing, though he willingly gave our delegates the privilege of conversing with his men on religious subjects, and seemed glad that provision was made to give them a Christian burial.

Owing to certain unforeseen and unfavorable circumstances, the operations of the Commission were less successful in the hospital of the Twelfth Corps than elsewhere. Yet a large amount of provisions was distributed here from first to last, and many a wounded soldier was comforted and directed to Christ; but, as two very excellent chaplains had remained at this hospital, the necessity for the religious instruction given by delegates of the Commission was less urgent than at most other places.

Our work in the hospital of the Eleventh Corps, at first under the very efficient charge of Mr. James Grant, of Philadelphia, and subsequently under the care of the Rev. J. B. Poerner, of

Baltimore, furnished a field favorable to cultivation. It was nearest the town of all the field hospitals, and was therefore easy of access. The number of wounded in it was large,—nearly or quite two thousand. At first there was much destitution. Part of Monday night, after the battle, was spent by Mrs. Harris, of Philadelphia, and one of the delegates of the Commission, in giving to some hundreds of wounded soldiers the first soft bread they had tasted since the fight.

Many of the men were Germans, and could be reached only by one who understood their language. For this post, therefore, Mr. Poerner was well fitted. In connection with other delegates, he conducted religious services in both the English and the German language, and conversed privately with great numbers in regard to the interests of the soul. He did very much also to lessen the suffering experienced here. He carried out pieces of broken boxes from town, and barrel staves, and, with little assistance from any quarter, succeeded in raising all the men from the bare ground on which they had hitherto lain.

Though it was our first duty to provide for our own soldiers, the rebels were not neglected. Of this, the treatment of those connected with the hospitals of the Second and Third Corps furnishes abundant proof. But besides what was here done, effort was made to improve the condition and to increase the comfort of the prisoners on the Cashtown road, and on the various other roads west and south of the town. The Rev. A. B. Cross, of Baltimore, explored this field with great thoroughness, and reported its necessities, which, in every case, were immediately relieved.

The buildings of the Lutheran Theological Seminary and College were filled with rebel wounded, who, though needy as wounded men always are, were at no time in what could justly be called a destitute condition. Much was done for the inmates of these hospitals, parties from Baltimore taking up their abode in the College building, that they might the better minister to the wants of the sufferers. There were some also proclaiming themselves delegates of the Christian Commission, who disregarded military rule to so great a degree that the provost-marshal was obliged to require of all who ministered to these prisoners an oath of allegiance, and no one who refused this oath

was recognized by us as a delegate of the Commission; for, as was once done with a wagon marked U. S. C. C., and sometimes employed in conveying contraband articles to the College, the name of the Commission was frequently counterfeited by those who had no sympathy with our Government. All packages and boxes directed to private individuals at Gettysburg were opened by order of the military authorities, and, if found to contain anything contraband, were confiscated or given to the Christian Commission to distribute.

On the Cashtown road, at different distances from town, there were several camps of rebel prisoners, who were for the most part extremely needy. They had been left by General Lee with few surgeons, and with scanty supplies of food, clothing, or medicine. As stragglers were picked up day after day, or found wounded lying in remote outbuildings, the necessities of these camps became greater and greater. When we remember that from eight to ten thousand of these prisoners fell into our hands, it will readily be seen that it was no slight task to take care of them. But as good care as possible was given them, Government doing all in its power for them, as did the Sanitary Commission, though after all was done that could be much suffering still existed. We ourselves observed no distinction in the treatment we gave these prisoners and our own men. To every rebel camp accessible we sent supplies, and where there were rebel surgeons we supplied their requisitions as fully as we were able. At some of these camps we had regular stations, ministers and physicians occupying them, and doing for the prisoners just what they needed, and just what we in their situation should have desired. The articles distributed were always appropriated to the purposes for which they were given, never wasted, or bestowed to an unnecessary degree upon officers rather than privates; and they were willingly received, the prisoners expressing great gratitude for them, as well as surprise at such kind treatment at the hands of enemies. Many a prisoner has said to us: "We never expected such treatment from you." "We are not afraid of your bullets and your cannon-balls, but we can't stand this." "You will overcome us with kindness." May it not be that the Christian Commission is acting an important part in showing the South the groundlessness of its hatred to the North?

These prisoners were especially accessible on religious subjects, desiring apparently more than our own men to learn the way of life. It was natural, therefore, that the delegates who began to work among them should not only become exceedingly interested in them, but very unwilling to leave them. When the rebels were removed, our delegates often accompanied the trains, and ministered to their wants the same as to our own men. In short, wherever wounded rebels were found, and they were in every field hospital, they received as good treatment as our means and strength permitted us to give them. Their surgeons and chaplains came freely into our rooms in town, and selecting the articles they desired, had them carried out to their men either by our own teams or by those of Government.

It would be wrong for the Christian Commission to claim for itself the credit of supplying the wants of all the wounded men. Some were never supplied; others received aid from the Sanitary Commission, from various State agencies of relief, and from Adams' Express; others from private individuals, ladies and gentlemen, who at their own charges ministered to the needy. In every corps hospital women were engaged in cooking food for the sick, and in the work of its distribution. But perhaps we may form some estimate of the work which the Christian Commission accomplished from the amount of supplies it distributed. In a little more than a month some twenty-five hundred cases of necessary articles, worth about seventy-five thousand dollars, were distributed. On some days a thousand loaves of bread were given out, loaves of more than four times the ordinary size, loaves which were sent us from all parts of Southern and Central Pennsylvania. Every day also we sent to our corps stations from three to six army wagon loads of provisions, clothing, wines, preserves, medicines, &c., to say nothing of the articles taken out in ambulances and smaller wagons to scattered companies of men lying here and there all over the field. By ten o'clock A. M. of each day, we aimed to have these loads of necessaries on their way, that the time of those employed at our rooms might be given to the opening of new boxes, and the distribution of such articles as were personally called for.

It is perhaps unnecessary to do more than to allude to the character and amount of the work performed at the headquarters

of the Commission in town. Cars were to be unloaded, boxes to be unpacked and repacked, transportation to be obtained, telegraphing to be done, invoices to be verified, the books of the Commission to be kept, letters of acknowledgment to be written, those of inquiry from friends of the wounded to be answered—a work which engaged the services of one man all the time—delegates to be assigned on their arrival to the different corps hospitals or sent to our stations among the rebels, Sabbath and weekday services to be arranged, strangers seeking tidings of relatives or friends to be aided,—in short, all the work of a great establishment was here planned and done. The two extensive stores of which we have before spoken, were occupied till the General Hospital was established, when we pitched our tents there, and removing the greater part of the Commission's property thither, made arrangements for religious services, and with the consent and approval of the surgeon in charge, continued to labor in our appropriate sphere, till the necessity for such labor no longer existed.

July 28th, about the time of our removal to the General Hospital, a district committee was chosen, with R. G. McCreary, Esq., as its chairman, to look after the interests of the Commission in Gettysburg and that vicinity, and to decide cases of difficulty which might occur in the further prosecution of our work there. Another committee was chosen at York; and subsequent events have more than shown the wisdom of the appointment. Increased interest has been taken in the Commission, and its means of usefulness have been greatly extended.

When the wounded began to be removed in large numbers, Dr. Cuyler, Medical Inspector, desired us to open a refreshment saloon at Hanover Junction; and here many thousands of soldiers were fed: the trains were halted for this very purpose; every man received suitable food and drink; lemonade was given to the stronger ones; to those weaker and needing a stimulant, a little brandy or wine. Thus no doubt many were enabled to bear the fatigue of the journey, who but for this would have sunk on the way.

At all stages of our work religious reading was distributed, though the amount circulated was far less than would have been required among an equal number of well men.

In every department of our work we were aided by the citizens of Gettysburg, who certainly showed as much zeal in the removal of suffering as any one of the more than four hundred delegates who were on the field from first to last. Professor Stoever, especially, and his wife, ready in every good work; Miss Van Patten, who cheerfully wrote for us many hours a day; R. G. McCreary, Esq., who, leaving his business, stood behind the counter for more than four weeks, receiving and disbursing goods from early morn till far into the night, aiding the Commission in every possible way by his wise counsels; the Professors in College and Seminary; Mr. Shick, who generously gave us the use of his store; the editors of the weekly papers, who kindly noticed our proceedings; Messrs. Harper, Danner, Arnold, Fahnestock, and Bevan, and those other citizens who so generously took such of the delegates as were employed in town into their own families,—should all be gratefully remembered in the estimate we make of the value of the services of the Commission. Nor should we forget to record our gratitude for the hearty co-operation of the Quartermaster and Provost-marshal, who gave us every facility for the prosecution of our labors. It was a united work which was accomplished; one in which many hearts and many hands were employed; one in which the citizens of Gettysburg had their full share.

When at last the burden and the heat of the day were borne; when the soldiers were nearly all removed or comfortably cared for in the General Hospital, the Surgeon-General expressed his estimation of the services of the Commission at Gettysburg in a letter of public thanks, addressed to the President of the Commission.

Others, also, the Medical Inspector, the Professors in the College and Seminary, distinguished visitors from all parts of the country, bore voluntary witness to the success and indispensableness of our work. We were encouraged, too, by the constant and generous contributions made on the spot by those who had observed for themselves the beneficial results of our labors.

Though none of us did as much as we desired, and though we did not manage all things with the truest wisdom, which only experience can teach, no one who labored at Gettysburg as a delegate of the Christian Commission can help being thankful

for the part he was permitted to bear in the work there accomplished, or cease to pray for the continued and increased prosperity of the organization which he there represented.

Surgeons estimated that more than one thousand lives were saved by the timely relief offered by the delegates and stores of the Christian Commission. Clergymen of age and experience, competent to judge, report that more than one thousand souls were there hopefully converted. We believe both of these estimates are short of the truth. Is not such a work worthy the attention of the philanthropist and the Christian?

Before giving an account of the work in the General Hospital, it may not be out of place here to present two or three letters from distinguished Professors in the Seminary and College, whose grounds and edifices and names are connected with the battle, and with the care of the wounded after it.

GETTYSBURG, August 8, 1863

MR. F. E. SHEARER,
General Agent United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: I am happy to be able to say that I have beheld with unaffected admiration the judicious and energetic mode in which you, and the gentlemen associated with you, have conducted the operations of the United States Christian Commission. The system and spirit which characterize your movements constitute a model for similar associations, and I have been soothed and comforted in the midst of the sad scenes of suffering which I daily witness in the hospitals, by the benign influence which your association is exercising on our brave wounded and sick soldiers. God bless you, and all who sustain you in your noble work.

CHARLES F. SCHAEFFER,
Theological Seminary.

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, GETTYSBURG,
August 8, 1863.

F. E. SHEARER,
General Agent United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: I regard the United States Christian Commission as one of the most useful and blessed agencies which the spirit

of our Master has called into exercise in these last days. I have witnessed its zeal and enterprise in relieving the wounded and the dying; tireless in its labors, and unintimidated by danger. How many lives it saved, and how many precious souls it directed to the Lamb of God during and after the battle of Gettysburg, eternity only can reveal. How our poor wounded soldiers would have fared without its timely assistance, and that of its sister, the Sanitary Commission, we may well conjecture, when we consider that the immediate region occupied by the troops had been stripped of provisions, and the army supplies had not yet reached their destination. In this emergency your Commission visited the suffering, and with the one hand fed the hungry and bound up their wounds, with the other applied to their sorrowing souls the precious consolations of the Gospel.

With my sincere prayers for the blessing of the Highest on your truly Christian work, I subscribe myself,

Sincerely your friend,

H. L. BAUGHER.

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE, GETTYSBURG,
August 10, 1863.

MY DEAR MR. STUART:

I had hoped to hear from you before this, but your time, I know, is very much occupied, and therefore, I readily excuse you. Next week I hope to be in Philadelphia, when I will call to see you and talk with you in detail. I shall ever remember with interest your visit to Gettysburg and our interviews with the wounded and dying. Many of them have since gone to a better country; others are doing very well, with every prospect of a speedy recovery. They kindly inquire after you and speak gratefully of your efforts among them. The hospital arrangements are very much improved. Those in the country have all been consolidated, and the patients are much more comfortable.

Rev. Dr. Junkin preached at the General Hospital yesterday, and among his hearers were some of his former pupils in Virginia among the rebel wounded. His interview with them was of a most touching character. With tears in his eyes, and his arms

around their neck, he told them in how wicked a rebellion they were engaged. One of them was a chaplain in the rebel service.

I have been very much interested in the labors of the Christian Commission. It is a noble institution, and has been doing in Gettysburg, among the wounded and dying, a most efficient work. Comfort, relief and religious instruction are daily furnished to thousands through its instrumentality, much suffering and distress alleviated, and large numbers hopefully converted to God. The members of the Commission have been laboring most faithfully, and I am glad to add my testimony to their self-denying, indefatigable and generous efforts in ministering to the wants, physical and spiritual, of the suffering. Their work, like that of the good Samaritan, is a blessed work.

Hoping to see you very soon, and with assurances of the highest regard,

I remain faithfully,
Your friend and brother,
M. L. Stoever.

N. B. My little Willie desires to be affectionately remembered to you.

About one month after the battle, the last of the corps hospitals out over the fields was broken up, the last of the wounded gathered into one general field hospital, a short distance from the town, near the line of the Hanover Road. Here, on a beautiful sloping meadow, a compact village of hospital tents, laid out in rectangular streets and blocks, with the surgeons' headquarters in a lovely grove on the south, and Commission tents at the southeast angle, were gathered the remaining maimed and mangled heroes of the memorable and terrible three days' struggle, to have all the benefits that medical skill and Christian kindness and counsel could confer. For days they were coming in ambulances from all the corps hospitals in different and distant parts of the field, trundled over the roads, and those too weak to bear the jolting of the ambulances borne on stretchers by their com-

rades in arms, easily and silently, one after another, with their kind friends, the delegates, in some instances, in attendance, until the last, about two thousand in all, were placed in the new village of the mangled and maimed, there to remain until by the good hand of God, the skill of the surgeons, and the oil and the wine of the Florence Nightingales, who devoted themselves night and day to the work, they should be sufficiently recovered to return to their commands or their homes, or be transferred to the permanent hospitals elsewhere established; or, if beyond the curative power of kindness and medicine, then to have their last hours and dying thoughts soothed and cheered by Christian counsels, and their bodies borne with Christian rites to the "National Cemetery," the place of honor, amongst the many heroes who with them had laid down their lives gloriously for Liberty and Union.

When the several corps field hospitals were finally merged in the general field hospital, the special field organization of the Christian Commission was broken up, and on the 7th of August the work, now confined mainly to the one place, together with the hospital stores and store-room, turned over to the Gettysburg Army Committee of the United States Christian Commission, of which R. G. McCreary, Esq., is chairman.

A store tent, a sleeping tent, and an eating tent, with some twelve delegates, formed the Christian Commission establishment at the general field hospital. Here came the kind lady nurses for delicacies, stimulants, and clothing, additional to the Government supplies, indispensable to the comfort and recovery of the men. From hence went forth from day to day the delegates, under direction of the surgeons, bearing in basket or haversack whatever for body or soul those to whom they ministered might require. The work, like the streets of the hospital, was laid off in districts, and each district assigned to one or more of the delegates. From time to time, in addition to the more private personal instructions and services in the hospital tents, public preaching services were held, to which all were invited; and from day to day, as the soul of one after another passed away from the body, each had the respect paid to them of Christian burial. The friends of the wounded coming from a distance to do what they might for them, to have a last look

and last word, if no more, or to see and weep over and to mark their graves, found shelter, rest, refreshment, and sympathy, which nowhere else could be found, and without which they would have sadly suffered, at the ample tents and tables and open hearts of the Christian Commission establishment.

Two streams were flowing out from day to day, one by the gate of death to the cemetery, the other by the cars to distant homes and hospitals. Reduced at last to a few hundreds, with a feeling of loneliness creeping over them and depressing their spirits, the happy thought of a festival to cheer them up and promote more rapid and certain recovery, as well as to pay them well-merited honors and show them universal sympathy, was suggested and realized. Generous contributions, placed for this special purpose in the hands of the Christian Commission, were gladly appropriated, to the amount of some hundreds of dollars, and helped in the achievement of all the most sanguine had hoped for from this bounteous feast, spread for the heroes who, in their long prostration, had suffered the agonies of a hundred deaths.

From that hour, those past recovery sunk quickly and died, and those convalescing rose rapidly and were removed. In a few days the tents of this village were struck, the work of the Commission was done, the record was closed, and the meadow, like the great field around it, left to the hallowing influences of time, never to be forgotten, but ever to be brightening in the grateful affections of a free people, for whom the great sacrifice had been made.

We subjoin a few out of the many testimonials spontaneously given.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., July 20, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I beg that you will accept my most heartfelt thanks for the devotion to the service of the sick and wounded soldiers of Gettysburg manifested by the Christian Commission and its agents.

Owing to the military necessities of the occasion, the suffering would have been much greater than it was but for the aid afforded the medical officers by the benevolent individuals who came to their assistance.

I trust you will convey my thanks to those of your body who acted with the medical department at Gettysburg, and assure them how highly I value their labors.

Begging you to accept my warmest acknowledgments for your own service in the cause of humanity, believe me

Yours, sincerely,

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND,
Surgeon-General.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
President Christian Commission, Philadelphia, Pa.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., July 30, 1863.

SIR: The following extract from the report of Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Cuyler, Medical Inspector United States Army, is furnished for your information:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27, 1863.

"I cannot close this brief report, General, without acknowledging the immense aid afforded by the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. The promptness, energy, and great kindness, uniformly exhibited by these benevolent associations, doubtless helped to save the lives of many, and gladdened the hearts of thousands, who, with their friends scattered throughout our land, will hold their good and noble deeds in grateful remembrance."

I need not assure you how cordially I concur in his remarks, and can only reiterate the thanks already tendered you.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

W. A. HAMMOND,
Surgeon-General.

G. H. STUART, ESQ.,
President United States Christian Commission,
13 Bank Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

GETTYSBURG, PA., July 24.

MY DEAR SIR: The aid afforded us by the Christian Commission has been immense. Your profuse generosity and indefatigable and kind attentions doubtless saved many lives and glad-

dened the hearts of thousands. The country will appreciate and God will bless your efforts.

Yours, very truly,
JNO. M. CUYLER.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND CORPS HOSPITAL,
July 24, 1863.

F. E. SHEARER,
Agent United States Christian Commission.

SIR: It affords us pleasure to bear testimony to the noble work of the United States Christian Commission in affording timely and substantial relief to the physical and religious wants of the wounded and dying soldiers of this corps since the battle of Gettysburg. A vast aggregate of suffering has been relieved, and no doubt many lives saved.

JUSTIN DWINELLE,
Surgeon in charge.

NATHAN HAYWARD,
Surgeon Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteers.

WM. J. BURN,
Surgeon Forty-second Massachusetts Volunteers.

F. F. BURMEISTER,
Surgeon Sixty-ninth Regiment Penna. Volunteers.

E. DAY,
Surgeon Thirty-ninth Regiment N. Y. Volunteers,
in charge Third Division, Second Army Corps.

CHARLES T. KELSEY,
Surgeon in charge First Division, Second Army Corps.

A. STOKES JONES,
Assist. Surgeon Seventy-second Regiment Penna. Volunteers.

H. C. LEVENSALERS,
Assist. Surgeon Nineteenth Regiment Maine Volunteers.

T. O. CORNISH,
Assist. Surgeon Fifteenth Massachusetts Volunteers.

A similar testimonial was sent, signed by all the surgeons in charge of the division hospitals of the First Army Corps, and others, viz.:

G. W. Ramsey, Surgeon in charge First Division Hospital.

Wm. B. Chambers, Surgeon in charge Second Division Hospital.

A. T. Woodward, Surgeon in charge Third Division Hospital, First Corps.

L. D. Ross, Surgeon Fourteenth Vermont Volunteers, at Third Division Hospital, First Corps.

J. H. Beech, Surgeon 24th Michigan, in charge of Express Office Hospital, Gettysburg.

Dr. Ward, Medical Director First Corps, expressed the highest appreciation, and gave every facility, detailed wagons, ambulances, &c., for the service, and said the Commission deserved the blessings of the whole army.

Testimony of Two Hundred and Eighty Soldiers.

The following testimonial is peculiarly precious. It is the spontaneous expression of heroes whose lives were long trembling in the balance, and was signed by every Union soldier remaining at the time in the General Hospital, the last lingering cases of all who had fallen wounded on the field of Gettysburg, and who were unwilling to leave the hospital without sending to the Commission an acknowledgment of the benefits they had received from the hands of its delegates.

We, the undersigned, being soldiers in the hospital at Gettysburg, Pa., deeming it a privilege, as well as our duty, would hereby express our unbounded and heartfelt gratitude to the Christian Commission (and may the Giver of all good reward them) for their numberless acts of kindness, for their unsparing contributions, without which we must sometimes have severely suffered, and last, but not least of all, for meeting our dear friends and relatives, who have come from our homes to watch over us, with an outstretched hand, saying, "You are welcome to our hospitalities while you remain," which is no small item to a poor soldier's friends, far from home and among total strangers. We therefore hope you will accept our humble thanks.

J. M. Altipes,	R. Pitts,
W. C. Beckes,	L. J. Orwig,
J. A. Bush, Sergeant,	L. Lewis,
D. Adams,	C. D. Milton.

All of Ward A, First Division, Camp Letterman Hospital, Gettysburg, Pa.

We, the undersigned, members of Tent No. 2, Ward A, Second Division after hearing it read, do all approve of it.

C. H. Anderson, Nurse,
D. D. Spinnings,
Wm. F. Hubbard,
James Brunson,
Henry Barwick,
A. J. Sheerer,
Merrit Lewis.
R. B. Marfield,
L. Roberts,
A. E. Sanford.

TENT No. 3, WARD A, SECOND DIVISION.

Francis E. Hodgman,
John A. Crawford,
Wyman Ulmer,
Daniel Corcoran,
Charles Whiteland,
Michael Laughlin,
Henry Wenke,
Charles Urich,
Harmon Riebe.

TENT No. 4, WARD A.

John Kelly,
John Swain,
Levi Potter,
Stephen Gray,
S. W. Woodman,
John Caussy,
Columbus Hailnutor,
William H. Hooper,
William Simpson,
Lorenzo D. Gates,
John W. Price,
Nath. Lloyd,
P. J. Stackhouse,
P. Clarey,
B Hatfield,
Wm. Murray,
A. Woolf,
Carl Felsberg,
Julius Wild,
A. D. Crocker,
E. H. Dudley,
Calvin P. Lawrence,
Andrew Vanvorst,
Benjamin F. Hayner,
John A. Thomas,
Jacob King,
Philip Hare,
Charles Ries,
Joseph P. Gass,
Fred. Miller,
John D. Weaver,
S. A. Kellogg,
Napoleon Bovet,
Joseph Slate,
George D. Morgan,
Frank A. Sears,
T. J. Chipley,
Jack Roberts,
Potter P. Wilson,
J. R. Golder,
W. White,
A. Guin,
W. H. Boles,
L. S. Samson,
R. L. Harris,
G. W. Barrier,
John R. Howard,
John Walters,
Joseph Hufford,
William Smith,
Jeremiah Hoffman,
Jos. S. Pleasants
James Vansky,
S. H. White,
David Strickland,
W. J. Shipp.

FIFTH DIVISION.

H. A. Patrick,
Ely Lofften,
Wm. H. Horton,
John Severton,
Tobias Duvall,
F. O. Yates,
W. Jones,
G. G. Everitt,
A. J. Glasgow,
J. H. Jordon,
E. J. Lewis,
J. Driscol,
S. Keeler,
D. Owen,
Henry Read,
Theo. W. Rease,
Lewis M. Baker,
William M. Holder,
Joseph G. Caswell,
S. Maberry,
W. J. Wardman,
C. J. Smith,
C. W. Gellett,
Jacob Myres,
Joseph Walsh,
Warren Miller,
James Bucannon,
John L. Haze,
Robert Craton,
Samuel Jongling,
John B. Adams,
J. C. Chandler,
E. Fraipont,
J. Shaw,
Lewis M. Larkin,
Wesley Kridler,
Thomas Lindsay,
Hugh Lynch,
James Landard,
Isaac Allen,
T. J. Wilder,
M S. Powell,
W. H. Miller,
E. Roach,
S. W. Russell,
Rynard P. Kipp,
Stephen L. Wetherlow,
A. P. Haskill,
C. B. Creadit,
George R. Hall, Corporal,
Levi C Kinner, Corporal,
G. W. Bailey,
Joseph Fuchs,
John Hochstein,
Thomas Ryan,
W. S. Bush,
W. J. Wiley,
J. T. Griffith,
S. H. Hughs,
J. D. Cellar,
Geo. E. Deretty,
A. B. Kimball,
J. J. Galeman,
Wm. H. Emmons,
A. J. Dowell,
Wm. Seigler,
Wm. Franksin,
J. Getter,
H. Elmer,
F. W. Krisher,
A. Emmons,
B. Bentley,
F. Weigant,
H. Knopf,
C. Hammer,
L. Wisner,
A. Say,
J. Eldard,
H. S. Montgomery,
D. Sarbach,
C. Sparbeck,
J. Newell,
Samuel J. Bullock, Sergeant,
Albert Garnsey,
Richard Blaisdell,
Barnard Matters,
John Knighton,
Louis Schampagne, Sergeant,
Charles Kniffins, Sergeant,
Joshua Estus,

FIFTH DIVISION—*Continued.*

P. F. Tunney,
James Jauncey,
John Terry,
E. B. Douglass,
J. F. Goodspeed,
Joe P. Harriger,
Oliver W. Helmer,
E. O'Neal,
A. A. Sallings,
George Laply,
S. J. O'Dell,
John Lansdal,
John S. Mardin,
John Durkin,
Sires Walter,
Alva Willard,
Chas. S. Knapp,
James McVicar,
Andrew J. Joice,
Charles C. Bryant,
Wm. L. Johnson,
David Parker,
Augustus Wenzell,
Martin Galliger,
Drawsson Stoddard,
Minot M. Ettrige,
Thomas H. Buck,
Henry F. Weaver,
R. R. Farnsworth,
William H. Sturtevant,
Simon Marugly,
Richard Bishop,
Charles N. Drake,
John K. Cook,
William Marvin,
William H. Howard,
Efter Root,
N. H. Reff,
Augustine Hansdale,
Andrew Shanger,
W. R. Lanford,
D. E. Bacon,
Sidney Wolsen,
William L. Rumage,
Peter Brock,
Geo. G. Farwell,
Wm. Sikes,
Fred. Gannett,
John A. Wilkinson,
D. F. Bridges,
M. G. Austin,
D. T. Meddor,
J. T. Cloud,
C. H. Muloney,
William Jowers,
W. N. Grippin,
S. M. Bowen,
J. N. Brown,
R. F. Carter,
B. F. Smith,
R. O. Ostien,
H. M. Cahill,
J. A. Simmons,
H. C. Vincent,
B. M. Dunn,
J. B. Vaughan,
John Yann,
William H. Short.

WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

On the bloody fields of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Perryville, &c., in the West, the United States Christian Commission, whether or not distinctly known, was not unrepresented. Delegates from the Western Associations, combined in the Commission, were upon them all. The great battle of Murfreesboro', or Stone River, was the signal for sending a large corps of delegates, with battle-field stores, directly from the central office, to join others from the Western branches, and proceed to the field for the relief of the wounded.

The conflict commenced on the last day of December, 1862, by a rebel assault upon the national army, and ended the 2d of January, 1863, by a final repulse of the rebels. The Union loss was 1533 killed, and 1375 wounded, 2908 in all; while the rebel loss was 10,000 killed, wounded, and missing.

Within three days after the first clash of arms, forty men, out of scores offering to go, were commissioned, equipped, supplied, and sent. Thirty-two of them were sent from Philadelphia, and eight from Chicago and Louisville. Those from Philadelphia were divided into four companies. A captain was placed over each company. Tons of stores were purchased, invoiced, packed, marked, and sent forward by express trains, with the delegates. And both delegates and stores were passed through to Nashville, in this way, without charge. For this, and many other acts of generosity, the Commission, the soldiers, and the country, are indebted to the patriotic and generous men who manage the various railways from Philadelphia to Louisville, and to General Boyle, in command at Louisville, and in control of the road from there to Nashville.

Arriving at Nashville they met many of the wounded coming from the front by wagons and ambulances, and found abundance of Good Samaritan work for every one of them to do, and for many more, if more there had been.

Some of them, however, pushed on to the front, in ambulances and wagons, as best they could, determined to find the place of greatest destitution, and to relieve, as far as possible, those whose wounds were most terrible, and who could not be removed to the rear.

The records of their work bear the impress of ready hands, moved by warm and sympathizing hearts—such as we should naturally expect in the case of men who would go a thousand miles in midwinter, travelling and working day and night, without pay, for the relief of suffering soldiers. Many of them had toiled before, in the same beneficent work, on the Peninsula, where they shared with the soldiers the perils of malarious atmosphere and sweltering midsummer heat, and endured with them the fatigues and deprivations of hard marches and hard fare. Some of them had succored the wounded, and comforted the dying also on the great field of Antietam, and at Falmouth, after the sore repulse of the first battle of Fredericksburg. And now, with the advantage of all these lessons of battle-field experience, they were willing to do and endure at Murfreesboro'. Many a noble soldier, comforted and cheered, perhaps saved from death, by their kind ministrations, will thank God and the Commission that they were sent. Not a few who were pointed to the Saviour, will enjoy the ceaseless songs and boundless bliss of a glorious immortality, through their timely counsels. And many a home was filled with the joy of relief from terrible suspense, or had the sorrows of bereavement sweetly tempered, by the kind communication of intelligence, through them, from the absent ones.

This Christian Commission campaign, of the Murfreesboro' battle-field work, marks the beginning and the end, in the Army of the Cumberland, of the work upon the plan then pursued. "Live and learn" is the maxim of success for organizations as well as for individuals. Up to that time, and through that campaign, the system of organization was that above described, of sending delegates in companies, each with its captain and stores, without any controlling head or permanent agency in the field. After that time the new plan was adopted of a permanent "field organization," as set forth at page 29 *et al.* The term of

regular delegate service was also lengthened to the minimum of six weeks within army lines.

In April, early in the month, the field agent, who remains now, at the close of the year, still at his post, was selected from the corps of tried delegates at work in the Army of the Potomac, where the system was already in successful operation, and sent on with a small, but sufficient force, to begin the work, under the new plan of permanent organization, in the Army of the Cumberland. One field agent, and three delegates, with seven boxes, all told, of stores and publications, were the organic germ of the great work which has since grown up and borne so much and such heavenly fruit in that large field.

The ready, rich, and quick soil they found there, together with the precious sunshine and showers of God's favor, as well as the faith and energy of the sowers and the reapers, must be taken into account, if we would know the philosophy of this marvellous growth and fruitfulness. The first scene to which the field agent was introduced, by the good hand of God, was full of significance. A council of chaplains convened, in a deserted church, to devise ways and means to procure Bibles, Testaments, and religious reading matter for the famishing men of their regiments. Here he was, sent on under the guiding star of heaven, which came and stood over the deserted church, where the new work was to be welcomed which should rise and give light in the region and shadow of death, that multitudes, sitting in darkness, might see a great light—a work, at whose feet the gold and frankincense and myrrh of many wise men should be gladly laid down, and in whose radiance many a soldier and centurion, and some generals, should rejoice with a joy never to be taken from them.

The coming of the agent, with his three helpers, and seven boxes, was the beginning of the glad solution of the sad problem that weighed down the hearts of the chaplains; and they all rejoiced together that day in the church, not without some glistening evidences of their joy upon their bronzed cheeks.

Other scenes greeted the delegation of very different kinds, but equally prophetic of the immense and blessed work God was leading them onward to do.

As it has happened in many other cases, Murfreesboro' owes

its importance, in the eyes of the world, more to the desolations of war than to the prosperities of peace. It never was much but a poor county town or village until the presence of armed hosts and the terrible shock of battle gave its name to the wires of the world, and enrolled it upon the scroll of fame for all time.

At the time the Christian Commission inaugurated there, in the Army of the Cumberland, its permanent "field organization," Murfreesboro' was a ragged little village of wooden houses, surrounded by an immense city or cluster of cities of tents. The population of this frail fleeting city had learned that life with them was as frail and fleeting as their city itself; that at any moment the order might come to strike tent and pass on over the line of earthly existence into the world beyond. They had learned, too, by long deprivation, to yearn for the once neglected privileges of the Gospel. The seed sown in many churches, Sabbath-schools, and Christian homes, had been quickened in their hearts, under the perilous showers of shot and shell and minie balls through which they had passed. It was a field ripe and ready, whilst the laborers were few, indeed,—some whole brigades with only one chaplain, some, perhaps, without any.

Numerous hospitals here in Murfreesboro', as well as at Nashville, were crowded with sick and wounded, who welcomed them, and their publications, and delicacies, and cheer from home, and their religious instructions, with the greed of men long deprived and hungry. And at Nashville they were greeted by one scene calculated to move hearts of stone. An immense camp, crowded with thousands of convalescents,—men wounded in the great battle three months before, now so far recovered as to be ordered out of the hospital to this camp, to await still farther increase of strength, and consequent orders to rejoin their regiments,—men just risen from days and weeks of prostration by fever and other diseases,—men who had been trembling over the brink of the grave, now tremblingly rising back again into life, —men needing nicely prepared food, without which recovery must proceed slowly and uncertainly, or relapse come and carry them quickly away,—men needing the warm shirt, drawers, stockings, or blanket to shield them from the chill air of night,

and aid them in regaining strength,—men who had lost their Testaments in the fight,—men who had not heard a sermon or prayer since entering the service at the beginning of the war,—men idle all the day long, with nothing to read, and nothing to do, but the mischief always found by Satan for idle hands, playing cards, until card-playing was not play but work, listening to oaths and obscenity until its novelty was gone, its wit stale, and it was sickening to hear,—men above all who, in the long rest of hospital life, had reviewed the past with sorrow and regret, and looked out into the future with apprehension and fear, and who would fain make their peace with God, and secure a good hope of heaven before entering again upon the exciting scenes of active service, or taking the hazards of another battle. Everywhere, at Nashville and Murfreesboro', in the hospitals and tented field, in barracks and great permanent camps, an open door, which no man could shut, presented itself, and a wide field, strangely, wonderfully inviting,—but who should enter it? How was it to be supplied? What were four delegates and seven boxes to the tens of thousands of famishing, perishing ones there?

Now steam was for once found too slow, and the free electricity of the telegraph lines bore the repeated and urgent call northward for delegates, publications, and stores. Delegates volunteered—a noble band—at the call, with a magic promptitude, showing the agency in their hearts of the same invisible power preparing them beforehand to go that had been silently at work making ready the field to receive them, and raising up the agency to send them to it. Stores, also, flowed in as if the fountains—the ladies' societies—had been suddenly filled and opened by the same magic power.

Strangely enough, in these days of steam-presses and publishing establishments, the one thing which could not be supplied without painful delay, in anything like the number and amount required to meet the emergency, was suitable publications. Testaments and hymn-books could not be printed fast enough. The American Bible Society with its appliances turning out seven thousand copies of the Testament daily, soon, it is true, overtook and supplied this most urgent of all wants of the work; but for weeks and weeks the constant clamor for hymn-

books was unsatisfied. The Commission never sells. *Freely receive, freely give*, is its invariable principle. But the want of hymn-books was so great, that the men of the Army of the Cumberland would gladly have paid *five times the cost* for many thousands, if by this means they could have obtained them. *Seventy thousand* the field agent estimated as the number needed for distribution, whilst the army should remain at rest; but he feared to ask them for gratuitous bestowal. The answer, however, was, "Seventy thousand you shall have as soon as steam-power can print them for you and transport them to you."

Permanent stations were established, manned, and supplied at Nashville, Camp Convalescent, Murfreesboro', and the great army centres in the city of tents. And now opens a work to gladden the hearts of the good upon earth and in heaven. The suffering are kindly cared for and comforted; warm clothing is put upon shivering limbs; the Good Samaritan work of every kind is gladly done and gratefully received; all of which is incidental, preliminary, preparatory. Thirty-five thousand Testaments, thirty thousand soldiers' hymn and psalm books, and a world of religious reading is distributed. Daily prayer-meetings are held at all the stations. Every station has its free writing table, and thousands of letters are written home which never would have been written but for the facilities thus afforded the soldiers.

The faithful but discouraged chaplain takes heart; his hands are filled with something precious for his boys to read; he meets them with the sunshine of satisfaction on his face, and they greet him with grateful words of delight as he steps into their tents with his Testaments, papers, and tracts. As the hymn-books find their way into all circles, the sweet strains of familiar melodies, hallowed by the dearest memories of home, are heard in the manly tones of the soldier everywhere. "Not with observation," not with any grand demonstration or outward show, but silently as the dawn steals over the face of nature a new moral face is given to the army.

The Gospel is preached from tent to tent, hospital to hospital, camp to camp, and with it the power of God is manifested in measure never before equalled on any similar field. From the chiefs of the army, more than one of whom have themselves in

many ways freely borne witness to the fact, down to the drummer boys, hearts are moved by heavenly influence, profanity is hushed and abashed, intemperance is checked, discontent and despondency cured, wanderers reclaimed, and sinners led to Him who alone can give repentance and remission of sins.

In Camp Convalescent, in a meeting one moonlight night, some five hundred rise at one time in token of desire that Christians shall intercede with God for their salvation. In the hospitals and in the city of tents there is one wide-spread and glorious revival, the results of which will be known in their fullest extent only in that day when the King of kings shall make up his jewels, and they that are joyously ushered into the light of the knowledge of God shall be gathered in glory.

The later days of April, all of May, and three-fourths of June, pass away filled up with these blessed scenes.

Meanwhile, by this very means, in aid of the more direct measures of the military and medical departments, the army is steadily gathering moral and physical readiness for anticipated movements and battles. Finally, after preparations, reviews, reconnoisances, all are ready; rations are packed, tents are struck, and on the 24th day of June the great host moves off in martial order, in expectation of a terrible battle within a few hours at most. The field, far and wide, white with tents and alive with the dwellers therein only a few hours before, is left, and presents a scene even more sad than the deserted village of the Irish poet, a deserted camp. Many of the delegates, with battle-field stores, follow on with the army. The stations of the Commission out through the army are all broken up, and their effects brought within the encircling line of fortifications defending the post of Murfreesboro'. And thus ends the second campaign—the first under the permanent field agency—of the delegate work of the United States Christian Commission in the Army of the Cumberland.

The great army moves on. Manchester is reached the 27th of July, and Winchester also. The enemy, instead of waiting and resisting its oncoming, falls back. Winchester, one of the most beautiful of all the Southern Tennessee villages, imme-

diately becomes headquarters. The favor of corps commanders opens two churches for daily service to the delegates. Their work is extended to the camps far and near. The meetings are thronged with officers and soldiers. The services borrow impressiveness from memories of the past, and from anticipations of the stern realities toward which they are pressing. Here scenes of personal religious interest transpire, which will be held in everlasting remembrance. Victories are gained by many greater than that of him that taketh a city.

The advance, however, is not stayed. Onward still move the martial columns through the deserted camps and abandoned works of the retreating foe. Tullahoma is reached August 1st, and nothing found but the desolating footprints of the hosts still hurrying away. Halting here for two or three days' rest with the army, the commander assigns the delegates a commodious store in a central position, and almost before the soldiers' tents are pitched a Christian Commission station, with all its appliances, is opened on the main street, for their relief and benefit. Abundant occasion the delegates find to ply their skill and use some, at least, of the clothing and comforts they have brought with them; for the fatigues of the march and the diseases incident to exposure and hardship in the midsummer's heat, have overborne not a few. Still onward they go, closely following up the foe, and still expecting a stand to be made, and a terrible grapple, decisive of the relative strength of the two armies, if not indeed of the fate of one or the other.

At Stevenson, a point is reached in the valley of the Tennessee River favorable for a great military depot, consisting of warehouses, workshops, and hospitals, and at once it is decided to establish it. This presents another field for the Good Samaritans, and instantly a station is opened. The commander assigns them the only church in the place, and religious services are here as elsewhere begun, while at the same time efficient preparations are made, and substantial service for the bodily relief of those who are suffering is rendered.

Again the army moves, only to find at Bridgeport, July 7th, ten miles above, the enemy across the Tennessee, and the bridge burned behind them. Fourteen days' hard marching over the rough, rugged mountain roads, brings them at last upon the

western bank of the Tennessee, within ear-shot, speaking by the word of the cannon's mouth, of the famous rebel stronghold, Chattanooga. A few explosive words of warning are sent shrieking across, and then preparation is made to bridge the river by pontoons and carry the place by assault. Nine days consumed in crossing, and ten more in the dispositions needful for the attack, give the enemy time for the conviction that the path of safety is the path of retreat, and Chattanooga, the mountain Gibraltar, is occupied without a struggle. This triumph, however, though bloodless, is not achieved without fearful sacrifice in the number prostrated by over-fatigue and disease. Scarce ten days for rest and preparation intervene before yet another advance is made. Meanwhile the suffering ones must be tenderly cared for and saved, if good nursing, comfortable clothing, and suitable diet in aid of medical skill can do it; or, these failing, the poor boys must be counselled, comforted, pointed to Jesus; their final messages and tokens taken and transmitted to the sorrow-stricken ones at home; and when gone, the sad rites of the soldier's Christian burial must be rendered to the earthly tenement they leave behind. All this to the utmost of their strength—yes, and beyond their strength—the delegates are forward to do.

Behind them, they have left stations along the line stretching from Nashville to Chattanooga, in readiness for future work. And now, as active preparations are making for a further advance, they begin to count upon an extension of this Christian Commission chain of posts by another link stretching to Atlanta.

Once more the army moves, not far this time until met in the anticipated deadly grapple by the foe strongly reinforced. The conflict is terrible; the slaughter on both sides immense. The centre is pierced: one wing gives way, and seeks safety within the fortified lines of Chattanooga; the other wing, unbroken, repulses the enemy. While the battle rages, delegates of the Commission are under fire. When the forces he is with are compelled to retire, leaving their wounded behind them, one of the delegates, Rev. John Hussey, of Ohio, with several surgeons, refusing to seek safety by abandoning the fallen men, is captured and sent to Richmond. This happens on the 19th and

20th of September. On the night of the 21st, the undaunted wing is also withdrawn, and all are now in defensive position.

Meanwhile, appeals for delegates and stores in anticipation of the battle have not been wholly in vain. The first man heeding the call reaches Chattanooga as the opposing lines along the Chicamauga are opening fire. As the battle rages, its fearful effects become painfully manifest. Hundreds of army wagons come in, fleeing from the danger; thousands of wounded men, some on foot, some on cannon trucks, some in wagons, and more in ambulances, pour into the town, through dense clouds of dust, and with "garments rolled in blood." The newly arrived delegate hastens to procure an ambulance, and goes out to meet the blinded, exhausted, maimed, mangled, fainting sufferers, and helps them to the hospitals. Soon the incoming tide fills up and overfills the hospitals, and flows out and flows on from Chattanooga to Bridgeport, Stevenson, Cowan, Tullahoma, Winchester, Murfreesboro', Nashville, meeting, as it goes, the newly summoned delegates, hastening forward to reinforce the several stations.

At Stevenson, as on Thursday, the 24th, the first trains with their burden of mangled heroes come in, scenes are witnessed worthy the pencil of a West. Many of the wounded have walked all the way from the battle-field to the railroad terminus at Bridgeport. All are faint and weary. Three days they have been without a single meal, and almost without food, and are starving. The acting field agent has come from the front just in advance of this tide of sufferers, to hasten forward delegates and supplies. He has despatched a noble band of new-comers, but has still with him some capital workers. What are they, however, and what their stores among so many? He is at his wit's end; yet his wits do not forsake him. He strikes the plan. Instantly an appeal is made to Colonel Lyon, commanding, and instantly the Colonel responds. The following orders are given:

OFFICE ISSUING COMMISSARY,
STEVENSON, ALA., September 24, 1863.

ALL BAKERIES AT THIS POST:

You will deliver to Rev. Benjamin Parsons, Field Agent of the United States Christian Commission, all the fresh bread that

he may need for the use of wounded soldiers, taking his receipt for the same. I will replace the bread with flour pound for pound. This to remain in force until further orders.

J. R. FITCH,
Captain and Acting Commissary.

And next this order:

STEVENSON, ALA., September 24, 1863.

ISSUING CLERK:

Deliver to Rev. Benjamin Parsons, Field Agent United States Christian Commission, what sugar and coffee he may need, taking his receipt for the same.

J. R. FITCH,
Captain, &c.

Thus favored by the authorities, the workers remaining here set at once about giving bread and coffee to the hungry and thirsty soldiers. On Thursday, they distribute ten hundred and twenty-four loaves; Friday they distribute eight hundred and fifty loaves; making a total of eighteen hundred and seventy-four loaves. They obtain army kettles, and by negro aid, cook, and themselves, chiefly, distribute one hundred and fifty gallons of coffee.

Beginning to feel the magnitude of the work on their hands, they appeal again to the noble-hearted Colonel, who gives them a detail of fifty men to help them. They select twenty-five of the number, place twelve on duty, and hold the others as a "reserve corps." Next they secure from Quartermaster Captain Warren a large tent, already pitched on the railroad depot platform, just where they want it; and finally, to expedite coffee-making, they obtain from the provost-marshal an order entitling them, "in preference to all others," to water from the tank. Now they are prepared for work, and are amused, in spite of all there is to sadden and sicken the heart, with the position they occupy,—a little band of Christian Commission men, with hundreds—yes, thousands—looking upon them as feeders of no small or unimportant portion of the Army of the Cumberland; and they are delighted, overjoyed, to see how the brave men, who are suffering the agony of a thousand deaths in the anguish of wounds and the faintness of hunger and exhaustion, are revived, cheered, filled with gratitude, and constrained to break

forth in rough, ready, hearty expressions, which borrow pathos from their tears and tones of joy, saying, "God bless you!" "Bully for the Christian Commission!" "These Christians are about the best people in the world after all!"

These are the scenes—many in number and variety, one in Christlike relief to the suffering—witnessed all along this sad tide of martyr patriots, pouring down from the bloody fountain on the Chicamauga all the way to the great Bethesda, with its twenty-three hospital porches, at Nashville. But why attempt description? It is useless. No pen, pencil, or tongue can ever reproduce them in their living power and pathos. The patience, even cheerfulness, of the maimed and mangled ones, is the most wonderful feature of all. A grand compensation is kindly provided in these cases, which often sinks out of sight the loss of limbs, and out of mind the present anguish of the most terrible wounds. The memories of other scenes, of deeds of daring, of hairbreadth escapes, of laurels achieved, are recounted to themselves and recalled to others; and as they pass the many places of interesting reminiscence, memory brings forth her old treasures with the new.

As they pass the old battle-field of Stone River, and the camping grounds they occupied so long, they fight the battle over again, and live anew the scenes of the camp. This draws with it every other link of the long martial chain, and carries them over Shiloh, Perryville, Fort Donelson, Pea Ridge, and every other field on which they have fought. With these come other memories, more hallowed and more precious, of which they speak with the frankness of the soldier and the gladness of the Christian. Passing the remains of a brush camp, one exclaims, "Yes, partners, I know as much of those fights as any one; but there, that brush camp is a spot that I shall remember when these battles are all forgot." "What happened there?" "There I found Jesus." His was the representative voice of thousands, some of whom live to fight the remaining battles of the war, and to gladden and enjoy again peaceful, honorable homes under the vindicated flag of the nation, whilst others have gone up to enjoy happier homes, and to be stars in a more glorious kingdom in heaven.

At once a new campaign opens, more vigorous, exciting, and

trying than all before it. The enemy assumes the offensive, presses Chattanooga, threatens assault, but commences a siege, endangers the line of supply, and creates apprehensions of a flank movement to isolate the army, and reduce it to the alternative of abandoning its strong position and cutting its way out, or risking the necessity for a final surrender.

Sixty miles of wagoning over rough, rocky, rutty, precipitous mountain roads, in the face of a watchful, adventurous foe, familiar with every pass of the mountains, and every step of the way, perilous even if there were no foe watching to strike, puts the gallant army to sad straits for subsistence. The enemy is boastfully expectant of driving it from Tennessee, and even presumptuously hopeful of its capture or utter destruction.

The whole country is moved. The Government is roused. The western departments are consolidated, and made to pour upward along the streams coming down from the mountains of Tennessee their reinforcing columns. The eastern departments contribute their veterans; and soon the cheering news goes abroad that the beleaguered army is beginning successfully to take the offensive, and is flanking its besiegers by a movement of the forces newly arrived.

The military necessities of the situation, however, trench heavily upon the Christian Commission facilities for receiving supplies. We share with the Government both the perils and the losses incident to the forty miles mountain transportation. Seventeen wagon-loads of choice hospital stores, with a fine library and good stock of reading, are captured and burned by guerillas on the mountains. O what a world of comfort and benefit to the soldiers is lost in this one mountain conflagration!

Bridgeport is made the headquarters of the newly arrived Eleventh Corps. Here the delegates find abundant work amongst the families of the suffering citizens, as well as the soldiers. At the request of the corps commander the delegates take charge of the poor families around, draw and dispense to them rations for their weekly supply, to save them from starving, open a school for their children in a tent pitched and furnished with benches and desks by the quartermaster for the purpose, and another for contrabands, old and young, to which must be added, as the crowning feature of this station of tents, the chapel tent for the

soldiers, filled daily with eager worshippers, and made the gate of heaven to many who joyously enter in.

At Chattanooga the work is greatly embarrassed for want of supplies; not, however, by any unwillingness on the part of the commander of the newly formed general department, for one of his early orders requires:

That all officers under his command shall afford every facility consistent with the public service to all delegates of the United States Christian Commission, and aid them by every legitimate means in their power.

That passes and transportation shall always be granted them for themselves, and for stores and publications, upon all Government railroads and steamers.

And that the privilege shall be extended to them of purchasing stores of the Commissary Department the same as officers do.

But orders cannot instantly lay down the double track of a long line of railway, or level down mountains and fill up valleys, and cast up a highway in the wilderness, even for Good Samaritans and their supplies to pass over. A reinforcement of delegates, however, reaches Chattanooga. The hospitals are visited daily, and everything done to cheer, instruct, and save the hundreds crowding the general field hospital, and the buildings used as hospitals in the town.

But ah, how the lesson is now made to sink down by the weight of daily repetition, that words, mere words, are empty when unaccompanied with deeds; that religious counsels to men suffering for suitable food fall on the ear, but fail to reach the heart; that the shortest way to the heart of the hungry is through the stomach; that the principle of the Christian Commission in carrying bodily relief in one hand, and religious benefits in the other, is the only true wisdom! Nevertheless, they do what they can, and God blesses what they do.

Amongst other expedients, a church edifice is secured. Daily services are held, in which chaplains and delegates work together, as they always do wherever the circumstances are propitious. The church is crowded from night to night half an hour before the appointed time; and every night from one to two scores of soldiers seek special direction to the Saviour, and special re-

membrance before God, that he may guide them into the way of life.

Two whole months—long months—in Chattanooga, pass away in preparations. At last all things are ready. Cartridges are stowed, rations put up and packed, orders are given, and with the morning's dawn the movement is to begin. It is to be the last night at the chapel. To-morrow the building is to be cleared, in readiness for a new set of occupants. Cots are to replace the seats, surgeons the delegates, wounded men the worshippers, and the worshippers of to-night are to march in the morning; and at night where are they to be? They are to march in the morning in full expectation of storming the strongholds of the enemy through the hailstorm of death; and what can sustain them but the strong hand of Him who conquered death, and who alone can give them the victory? O what a meeting is this! It begins in painful solemnity. Soon the Christian's high vantage-ground of faith in God is gained. Still higher the souls of the worshippers continue to rise, until the rock of Christian triumph is reached.

> "They have climbed where Moses stood,
> And view the landscape o'er;
> Not Jordan's stream, nor death's cold flood,
> Can fright them from the shore."

The morning comes, the morning of November 23d, and with the morning comes the marshalled advance. In open day they march boldly out. The enemy looks on, and yet does not believe his own eyes. A mere feint, he thinks it, and is taken wholly by surprise when the attack begins. The roar of musketry, the boom of the cannon, the whistle of bullets, the shriek of shells, and the rush of the charge, serve at last to convince him. He is driven from all his front line of works. Early on the 24th the terrible work is resumed. With little expectation of carrying Lookout Mountain by a front attack, ascending the steep acclivity, the assault is made. The enemy gives way; hope is quickened, impulse swells. With shouts of triumph, onward, upward they rush, carrying all before them. The summit is gained. Lookout is ours.

Meanwhile, the flanking force comes on up out of the Lookout

Valley from the south, sweeping all before them in their "fight above the clouds;" and the mountain is cleared of all the foe, his last works carried, and many of his guns, with thousands of his men, are captured. With the dawn of the 25th the triumphant columns push forward across the valley to the assault and conquest of Missionary Ridge, and the victory is complete. The enemy is routed, and driven back to Ringgold.

Through these days of triumph, on Lookout Mountain, in Lookout Valley, and on Missionary Ridge, the Good Samaritans are along the bloody track, taking up the fallen, binding up their wounds, pouring in the oil and the wine, taking messages, tokens, and memoranda of the dying for the comfort of the bereaved, pointing them and commending them in prayer to Jesus, and in every way giving willing aid to the surgeons, as best they may, in their sad and arduous work.

The flying enemy are pursued the 26th, 27th, 28th, and on, until overtaken at Ringgold, where, December 1st, the pursuing column receives a bloody check, and not being in sufficient force to give general battle, withdraws and returns to Chattanooga, where the army is concentrated to rest from their campaign of triumph, in preparation for still another when the time shall come. Not all, however. A strong column is still out for the relief of the gallant but imperilled army in East Tennessee. At Ringgold, besides the dead, who are buried, about eighty fall wounded, and are brought back in ambulances, two days on their painful journey before reaching Chattanooga. Two delegates, with an ambulance and supplies, go out in the night and meet them. Nothing could be more providentially opportune. The surgeons had dispatched a messenger for stimulants, and he returned with empty bottles. O how joyous are they, as well as the poor sufferers, when, in this strait, the indefatigable Good Samaritans announce themselves, with their brandy, condensed milk, camp-kettles, and everything to meet the case!

Thus relieved, refreshed, and strengthened, when the morning comes this train of wounded heroes resumes its painful course; and when it enters Chattanooga all safe, the surgeon in charge breathes more freely, and turning to the delegates, says, "Six of these men, now safe here, would have died before morning if

you had not met us last night as you did." This is pay enough for the delegates; they ask no more. Their hearts are full.

The news of the great battle flashes over the wires, and thrills the hearts of millions with joy for the victory, and loving sympathy for the wounded heroes who have bought it with their blood. Hundreds are ready to fly to their relief. The line of transportation, however, is overcrowded. Comparatively few can go. They find a world of work, and a greater world of welcome. The railway, too, is opened anew to Chattanooga from Bridgeport, and supplies come more freely through. One of the newly-arrived delegates, amongst other evidences of appreciation, has his heart gladdened in the field hospital, two miles out of Chattanooga, by circumstances like this. He is in a tent, writing a letter for one who is too badly wounded to hold a pen. A man comes in with stationery for sale, asking an exorbitant price for it. One of the men, rising upon his elbow in his cot, remarks to the vendor of paper, "You will find no sale here. The Christian Commission sends this man not only to give us paper, but to write letters home for us when we are too sick, and gives us a little book into the bargain."

But the scenes of these closing days of the year at Chattanooga, and all along the line of the tide of wounded men from there to the ample hospitals of Nashville, must be left entirely to imagination.

Sketched, as it has been, in briefest outline, this work, in the Army of the Cumberland, is trenching too much upon space justly claimed by other fields. In closing, a word must be added briefly unfolding the work at Cowan, not even noticed in passing, and another expanding the too-meagre outline of that done at Nashville.

Cowan is in Tennessee, about midway between Murfreesboro, in the same state, and Stevenson, Alabama. In the summer, it was made the place of an immense field hospital, filled with victims of overfatigue in the broiling heat. Soon, however, as the army advanced, it was converted into a camp for convalescents. The large numbers gathered here, their desolate condition, want of clothing and diet suitable for men in their delicate state, their

craving for sympathy, their need of kind care and kind words, and their eagerness for religious instruction, drew largely upon the hearts and hands of the delegates sent to them. Shirts, drawers, and socks, clean and comfortable, given at the right moment, with words of cheer, might and would in many a case become the pivot of recovery, or withheld, would leave the suffering ones to the chills of the night and the colder chills of despondency, sinking them quickly to the grave. Some proper nourishment, nicely prepared and rightly bestowed, in many another case would save from death. And how could they fail to be moved to almost superhuman exertion to meet the wants of these men and save them alive?

They were hungry for the Gospel, too, scores upon scores of them, just in position to be pointed to Jesus, to look and live or go on their way and die. They flocked to the services in the open air, and hung upon the lips of the delegates in the hospital and in the tents, and ate up their words. What wonder, then, that the excitement lifted the workers above their own powers of endurance and impelled them beyond the bounds of prudence, even to prostration? One who was borne upon the bubble of excitement through all until he left the ground, then sunk down; but, after much suffering, rose again finally to health. Two others were overborne and stricken with fever, from which one, after lying long at death's door, finally recovered. But, alas! the other, Rev. A. R. Dyer, of Maine, after partial recovery and removal to Nashville, died on Sunday, November 15, 1863. The work at Cowan cost a terrible price; but who that knows anything of the lives saved there, and of the souls converted to God, will say that the price, after all, was too dear?

The death of another delegate at Nashville, not however chargeable to the work at Cowan, may as well be mentioned in this connection,—that of Rev. Frank Heron Power. At the front he overworked and fell sick, but recovered again, and started for home. On the way he was drawn into the work again by his sympathy for suffering men, and soon exhausted himself beyond the power of all medical skill, and all kindness and care. He died October 16, 1863.

Still another name remains to be mentioned in this list of the fallen. David Brown, a young man of promise and of the true

martyr spirit. He, however, reached his father's house, in Tridelphia, Va., where he was prostrated by the fever which terminated his life, on the 8th day of July, 1863, at the age of twenty-two years.

Our Saviour commended the poor widow for her two mites cast into the treasury, because it was all the living she had. What would he have said to Dyer, Powers, and Brown, who cast in life itself into the scale for his glory? Truly, none have given, none can give more for this or any other work than has been given by these dear departed brethren.

Nashville. If the scenes of the work in Nashville were written out, they alone would fill volumes, and if graphically and truthfuly portrayed, few volumes ever written would equal them in intensity of interest. They *are* written in heaven, and in fragments in the hearts also of thousands on earth. Here is the great Convalescent Camp, with its population daily changing and daily under the influence of the Gospel, with its benign preface of clothing for the needy, delicate nutriment for the weak, and kind words and deeds for all, and its increasing manifestation of power unto salvation. Here are the twenty-three hospitals, in one of which alone one delegate who, upon his first visit, found only one man willing to ask before his comrades to be pointed to Jesus; but who, on the occasion of his final visit, found all, save two, willing to express their joyous assurance of salvation received or their ardent desire for its attainment.

Here are the barracks, with a population more fluctuating still than that of Camp Convalescent, but ready to receive and carry with them, as they go on their way from this lodging-place for the night, the good seed daily sown amongst them. Here is the daily prayer-meeting in the church in the city, and here are the camps, batteries, and guard stations all around it.

Here, at No. 6 Cherry Street, central to all these, are the headquarters of the Commission, a store-room, twenty by sixty feet; the front used as a reading-room, furnished with a free writing-table; the leading secular and religious papers on file; a circulating library of more than two thousand books, either on shelves or abroad amongst the soldiers, with the following card on the table, to be read by all comers:

"The newspapers hanging on the files are dailies and week-

lies from your state and county. Sit down and read. The *writing-table and stationery* on the left are for your use. They want to hear from you at *home.*

"*If out of stamps*, drop your letter in the box—we will stamp and mail it. Those Testaments, hymn-books, and religious papers *were sent to you*—take one. That library back of the railing has many interesting books; find the one you like, have it recorded, and return it in five days. If you are in trouble, speak to any agent in the room; *you are the one he wants to see.* At 3½ P.M. everybody come to our 'prayer-meeting' in the Second Presbyterian Church, College Street, below the public square.

"*The Saviour will be there. He says, 'Come.'*"

Here the boxes are brought to be opened, sorted, repacked and shipped off to the different stations.

And here come the delegates, to remain and work in this immense cluster of parishes, in far greater number in proportion than can be sent forward to the front stations in the army.

Every army has its base of supplies, which is also the point of convergence to which all soldiers come in, whether going to the front or returning from it. And this is also a point of divergence from which the army is reached, in all its parts, by supplies and recruits not only, but by influences for good or for evil.

This relation Nashville sustains to the Army of the Cumberland; and what is done here, is done for the whole army. It is, therefore, matter of profound gratitude to God, that the pillar of the Divine presence has never for one day been taken away from the little band of Christian Commission workers here, numbering at most, when largest, not over thirty, generally much less; nor the waters of life ceased to flow from the smitten Rock, assuaging the thirst of the weary.

Here, month after month, men have come in from all parts of the army. Some of them, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, have been pointed to Jesus and filled, and have gone out again or gone home to tell others of their joy in God, or gone to heaven to join the glad throng above.

Here, from battle-fields and hospitals at the front, have been brought the helpless and laid in the many porches of this Bethesda to await the coming of the angel; and, when he came, the delegates have borne them to the healing waters.

MAP OF THE FIELD.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION STATIONS

IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Nashville, Tennessee.
Murfreesboro, "
Tullahoma, "
Winchester, "
Cowan, "
Stevenson, Alabama.
Bridgeport, "
Chattanooga, Tennessee.
Huntsville, Alabama.
Lookout.

That the Christian Commission is appreciated highly by men of every rank in the army has been shown in many ways, and it is gratifying to know that it is rising in general estimation continually.

The chaplains were the first to hail it with joy and commend it heartily to all, as they did in the following resolution, passed at a general meeting of theirs, in which thirty-three were present, by unanimous vote.

"*Resolved*, That we hail with gratitude to God the advent of the delegates of the Christian Commission among us; that they have our thanks for the supply of religious reading furnished us, and that we assure them that we shall be happy to cooperate with them in sowing the good seed in this vast field of labor."

The corps commanders—several of them—have given the influence of their presence at many of the meetings held by delegates of the Commission, and have most cheerfully afforded every possible facility for the prosecution of the work. One of them appointed the acting field agent on his staff, to give him the power to accompany the army himself, and to command facilities for his fellow-workers also. The distinguished commander of the consolidated departments, comprising the general department of the Mississippi, has uniformly manifested his hearty confidence and high estimation for the Commission whenever and wherever he has had occasion to do it; and soon after taking his present high position, he gave the following order, valuable first, and chiefly, because it facilitates the work, and cheers all engaged in it, and only less so as a testimony to the people at home that their liberality to the soldiers, through the Commission, is appreciated by their commanders of the highest rank.

Special Order of General Grant.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
IN THE FIELD, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE,
December 12, 1863.

Special Orders No. 32. *Ex.*

All officers holding commands in the Military Division of the Mississippi are hereby required to extend every facility, not inconsistent with the public service, to all delegates of the United

States Christian Commission, and aid them by every legitimate means in their power to the accomplishment of the benevolent and charitable purposes of the Commission.

Permission will at all times be granted by the proper military authorities to such delegates to pass to all parts within the lines, without hindrance or molestation.

The Commissary Department will at all times sell to such delegates, upon certificates similar to those given by officers, such stores as they may need for their own use.

Military telegraph lines will transmit for such delegates all messages relating to the business of the Commission.

The Quartermaster's Department will, upon application, furnish such delegates and their stores free transportation upon all Government steamers and military railroads to and from such points within the military division as their duties may require them to visit.

By order of Major-General U. S. GRANT.

GEORGE K. LEET,
Assistant Adjutant General.

REV. E. P. SMITH,
General Field Agent United States Christian Commission.

The various evidences of a high valuation placed by the soldiers themselves are, of all others, most gratifying. If these were wanting, if the soldiers were averse or indifferent to the Commission and its benefits, all besides would go for very little. They, however, on all occasions, and in a vast variety of ways, show the warmest love for it, and the most grateful estimation of the good it is doing.

The hearty, "God bless the Christian Commission," is the daily cheer given by the soldiers to the delegates in their work. Contributions are never asked from them, yet they are constantly making them. Small regiments, out of the limited pay they receive for the perilous and often hard service they render, have, in some instances, given more than large and wealthy churches.

Out of the many letters of thanks, and expressions of gratitude and good will, the two following have been selected. The army of the nation has in its ranks multitudes of men of ability

to write as well as to fight, men who have power to "discern between good and evil," and hearts to appreciate everything noble, of whom evidently are the writers of these communications, written manifestly for newspaper publication, though never published as intended.

The Christian Commission.

NASHVILLE, TENN., November 15, 1863.

It is not less a duty than also proper to inform the public of the direction their contributions to the Christian Commission have taken. Being placed in a position from which he could see its operations on an extended scale, the undersigned can, with heartfelt confidence, assert that the intentions of the contributors have been fully carried out.

He has seen regiments and brigades, after a wearisome march, scarcely arrived at camp, when the delegate of the Christian Commission appeared, with greetings from his benevolent heart, and stores of good things in his haversack. Not a more busy man could stand beside him within the encircled camp-ground. From soldier to soldier, from tent to tent, he made his rounds, presenting to one a book, another a tract or pamphlet. Some boys needed writing materials; others wanted note-paper and envelopes. All were glad to receive reading-matter in the various forms at his command, and all were presented, according to their various wants, with what he had on hand. Comforts for the outer man were properly distributed, and due attention to the spiritual interests of the soldiers were promptly paid. The Holy Scriptures were read; a hymn once hallowed by the choral voices of parents, sisters, friends, was sung; a prayer was offered from the altar of the camp-ground to the Lord of Hosts on high; an exhortation given to be as faithful soldiers to the Captain of our salvation as they were sworn to be to their superiors in command. The emotions of many a sunburnt soldier, deep sunk, buried down in his heart, would ofttimes well forth, and its sluice-gates give way with copious tears of penitence, causing rejoicing among the marshalled hosts of heaven over one more sinner who had repented, and given his heart to God.

After many a sanguinary battle, it was the delegate of the Christian Commission who was first on hand, reached a cooling

draught of water, staunched a bleeding wound, conversed upon the eternal interests of the soul, pointing to the bleeding, mangled Jesus upon the cross as the Lord, Saviour, everpresent help, and ofttimes closed their eyelids when death approached to give release to suffering pains and mortal woe. When the wounded, sick, disabled soldiers were conveyed to the hospital, the delegate of the Christian Commission appeared; was the first man to speak words of comfort, and offer a prayer to the Great Physician to give the needed aid; became the balm of Gilead, and would not leave the man before presenting him with a copy of the Holy Scriptures, a hymn-book, tract, book, or paper, to fasten deep the truth of which he now stood so much in need. Upon each succeeding day the delegate would be on hand, dispensing social, spiritual converse to all within his reach. Was reading matter wanted? it was bestowed. Pens, ink, paper, envelopes, stamps? they were given. Superscription upon letters? it was done. Or needles, thread, buttons, sewing-materials desired? the all-sufficient housewife, or comfort-bag, was presented, with its so admirably supplied contents, containing even a pretty note from the still prettier donor, with her prayers and address, making a bridge of communication 'twixt Dixie's land and our ever-faithful, all-glorious Uncle Sam's domain. Did some one long for a taste of the good things prepared by dainty hands at home, by consent of the surgeon, the Christian Commission brought forth many a can of fruit, of jelly, of oysters, and other luxuries, as likewise articles of clothing, all liberally bestowed, to fit for duty at the front, and facilitate a speedy convalescence for return to duty at the post of honor, peril, and great purposes. Again, a battle had occurred. Whole squads of wounded came crowding into the hospitals. Lint, bandages, muslins, rags, flannel, &c., were required. The Christian Commission at once supplied the requisition. I know of no case when a soldier actually needed any article in store of the Christian Commission where it was not cheerfully presented to the extent of their means on hand. In view of all these facts, I can most cordially certify that the articles sent to the agency of the Christian Commission here, at Nashville, have been judiciously distributed. They have reached the wounded, sick, and disabled soldiers, for whom they were intended, both in field and hospital.

They were received with grateful hearts, conduced much to their good, and doubtless every object had in view by the donors of the money, books, fruits, clothing, and all other articles presented to the Christian Commission, have been fully accomplished. Great good has been done by every donation, and no evil could result therefrom to the soldier, the only regret being that the supply was not equal to the demand. Among the agencies designed for the comfort, well-being, and best interests of the soldiers of the United States army, none are held in higher esteem, nor deserve profounder gratitude, than the truly patriotic, heaven-blest Christian Commission, with its noble corps of intelligent, gentlemanly, pious, disinterested, and self-sacrificing agents, delegates, and contributors.

May heaven's richest blessing crown all concerned with an everlasting and eternal weight of glory. May seraphs, ministering angels round the throne of God on high, leave their majestic seats, and blend their hallowed efforts to further on the work of the Christian Commission.

GEORGE W. SHIDEY,
General Hospital United States Army No. 19.

NASHVILLE, September 17, 1863.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I have for the past few weeks felt a strong desire to give expression of my gratitude to the delegates of the Christian Commission for their labors in behalf of my brother soldiers and myself, and thought perhaps you would give my short letter a place in your columns. They are doing a great amount of good in distributing books, tracts, and papers, and by conversing with the soldiers upon the all-important subject of religion.

I have been in the service long enough to know that the roughest soldier always rejoices when he sees a servant of God approaching, either for the purpose of distributing reading matter, or to speak and pray.

Our friends at home can hardly realize what a comfort it is to us, when called to lie upon a sick bed, to be permitted to converse with these men of God. We certainly need their aid when

well to assist us in overcoming temptations with which the path of the soldier is beset.

Could parents see their children as they are in the army, and think how they are hardened in sin, they would say with me, "Let us have the number of our delegates increased." If there is any place where religious men can do good, it is in the army. As it was only my desire to express my thanks to the Christian Commission through your paper, I draw my letter to a close.

D. S. SMITH,

A convalescent, General Hospital No. 19.

This notice of the estimation in which the work of the Christian Commission in the Army of the Cumberland is held, would be quite defective if there should not be added to the various expressions of it, from the rank and file of the army, something to illustrate the appreciation of it by the people at home who have sons, brothers, husbands and fathers in the army. For this, however, one letter must suffice.

DETROIT, September 30th, 1863.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.

DEAR SIR: Having, with great thankfulness to God, heard by telegraph that my youngest son, Adjutant H. M. Duffield, is not wounded, and quite well at Chattanooga, I send you twenty dollars, as a thankoffering from a mother for the preservation of her son at the battle of Chickamauga. I should like the money appropriated where the most Michigan regiments are, but still I do not dictate. All souls are precious, and you can use it as you think best. May the blessing of our Father in heaven go with it!

I think of the Christian Commission and the Sanitary Commission as twin brothers going forward to their glorious work. Oh! my friend, what a field is open to Christians now, and how ought they to improve it in trying to rescue those who are "led captive by the Devil at his will." God bless you and the dear, precious Christian Commission! Surely the blessing of those who are ready to perish will rest upon you. Ah! little do you know how much comfort you give to anxious mothers when they

hear of your locations. "My boy is there," is her thought, and then she bows the knee and prays, that your labors may be blessed to him and others.

Surely it is like going out into the highways and hedges, when you look after the spiritual wants of soldiers. You *encourage* Christian soldiers, while you *awaken* the impenitent. Oh! how noble to be near the sick bed and cheer him with your blessed words,

> "When the groan his faint heart giveth,
> Seems the last sigh of despair."

Oh! how I have wept and prayed for our beloved country. Two sons—one a Colonel, and the youngest, the Adjutant,—I gave. The Colonel is wounded so that he cannot go back to the army, and the dear young Adjutant has been in this battle. But I put him under the shadow of God's wing, and he has kept him safe. I am anxious, but still I say,

> If new sorrow should befall,
> If my noble boy should fall,
> If the bright head I have blest,
> On the cold earth finds its rest,
> Still with all the mother's heart
> Torn and quivering with the smart,
> I yield him, 'neath thy chast'ning rod,
> To my country and my God.

You will never know the good you have done till "God shall wipe away all tears from your eyes," and you see how many gems shall sparkle in your crown, which have been gathered from our army.

How much good your Commission has done! God bless you all! In haste,

Your sister in Christ,

ISABELLA G. DUFFIELD.

WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO.

WELCOME could not be more cheering and hearty than that given by the commander in the Department of the Ohio to the Christian Commission, when, in pursuance of the plan of permanent field organization, the agent and delegates presented themselves at his headquarters in the Queen City. They were made free to every camp, hospital, post, and guard-station in his department, and all respect, and every facility commanded for them by the kindest of special orders.

The Army of the Ohio had before it the desultory and difficult task of clearing Kentucky of guerillas before it could wisely concentrate and advance to the deliverance of East Tennessee, and most thoroughly and energetically was it addressed to this perplexing warfare.

Meanwhile, its necessary separation into small detachments, and its many movements in pursuit of marauding parties, was not the most favorable combination of circumstances for the delegate work of the Christian Commission.

Great armies concentrated, and at rest, in preparation for future campaigning, present opportunities the most inviting and inspiring of any ever offered on earth for the effective preaching of the Gospel, with a view to immediate results. O what a glorious field for a Whitefield, a Paul, or a John the Baptist, the Army of the Cumberland, or the Army of the Potomac, in winter quarters! Great battle-fields, while the conflict still rages, and men are falling by hundreds, and after the thunder of the battle is hushed, and its clouds lifted up, revealing the mangled heroes in their gore, call in a voice louder than the roar of artillery upon the Good Samaritan to stanch ebbing life, bind up ghastly wounds, receive last messages and tokens to loved ones at home,

and breathe comfort and hope through Christ into the spirit departing.

Neither the one or the other of these conditions, however, at the moment awaited the delegates in the Department of the Ohio. Yet great central military depots, with their vast permanent camps, barracks, and hospitals, are second only to concentrated armies at rest in the opportunities they offer to the evangelist, and second only to battle-fields in the urgency of their calls upon the Good Samaritan, and these did await and invite the delegates.

Such a depot was Camp Nelson, near Lexington, Kentucky. Strong by nature, it was also strongly fortified as a post. The soldiers manning the works were, of course, numerous. There were two hospitals filled with the wounded and sick, and a great many Government employés, teamsters included. The changeful population was in numbers unchangeably in excess of five thousand. Frequently, and for considerable periods, it may have been four or five times as many, as, for example, while the Ninth Army Corps was quartered there.

The delegates who were stationed here were in some respects quite remarkable. One of them, a pastor of twenty-five years' standing, had given himself to the work for the war. His salary as a pastor he relinquished to one who supplied his pulpit for him. His family at home—one son excepted, who was in the army—was supported by the voluntary contributions of one man, not to or through the Commission, but directly to the family. The Commission, indeed, knew nothing of this arrangement, or of the purpose of the delegate to go, until he presented himself, with every commendation and preparation, all ready to start, and no plan of return, the bridges all burnt behind him.

At Louisville, on their way to Camp Nelson, amongst other encouraging circumstances, inspiring them with hope of great good from their work, they met in the hospital a soldier of the 40th Indiana Regiment, who gave them an account of the remarkable results of a single suggestion made by one of the delegates of the Commission. The 40th was stationed for several weeks at Huntsville, Alabama. In accordance with the urgent suggestion of a delegate, seven men of Co. A determined to have a regimental prayer-meeting. They gave notice that, on a certain evening, under a certain tree, such a meeting would

be held, to which all were cordially invited. Five weeks the seven alone met; yet they always did meet. Then one and another began to drop in. Soon the whole regiment, officers and men, gathered to the meeting. The tree was abandoned as the place, and a deserted church secured in the town. Then another regiment, then another, joined in the meeting, until its number was swelled to more than three thousand; and the best of all was, that besides all the good done in other regiments, their own was entirely changed, nearly all hopefully converted to God.

Such was the soldier's story to the delegates, and of course they went forward to Camp Nelson with hearts beating high with hopeful purpose.

In the hospitals they met disease in its worst forms, in some cases, but did not shrink from it. In the encampment of teamsters and elsewhere, vice was encountered in fulness of freedom from all religious restraints, but they were not repelled. Everywhere they found amongst the thousands peopling this grand military centre, no other public notice of God than that of the profanation of his glorious name. They, however, set up their banners, and opened out their roll for the names of recruits.

Their banners and their roll were honored of both God and the soldiers.

Of course a world of work awaited them for the bodily comfort and relief of the men in the camp; in all of which they were hailed as messengers from home, and welcomed as brothers and fathers, sent with cheer of the heart and cheer of the hand.

O who can tell, except those who have felt it or seen it, how much there is in the simplest gift from home, given with home words of kindness, to the long-absent soldier! A gift so small, for example, as a "comfort-bag." As he takes it up in his hand, turns it around, opens it, examines its contents, O how his face reveals what is passing in his heart! The buttons, thread, needles and pins, the scissors and comb, everything, in short, in it, and most of all the kind, sisterly note, warm from the heart of purity and prayer, bathed with influence from home and from heaven, give it a power to move him, and soften and open his heart, scarcely conceivable of a thing so small!

Greatly they and the soldiers rejoiced in all that was done for the wounded and sick.

All this, here, as it does elsewhere and everywhere, opened the way for the Gospel, and here it was, in proclaiming the glad tidings, by the cotside, in the tents, hospitals and camps, that the delegates found their most arduous, abundant and joyous work. One of them alone records *seventy-three* meetings in two months, besides all the personal conversations and interviews with groups here and there, and the distribution of thousands of Testaments, books, papers and tracts, as his portion of the work in Camp Nelson, and this may be taken as a fair illustration, not in excess, of all others.

Many pages of incidents might be given, showing by specimens the warm welcome, the eager interest manifested, and the vast good they accomplished, under the blessing of God; but these must be left untold, and the results also, until they shall all be unfolded in the fulness of the train of blessed things, sure to follow them in the army and amongst the people at home, and sure to be gathered in the garner above.

At Glasgow, Kentucky,

A station was established, and a work not unlike that at Camp Nelson was done by another band of delegates.

Camp Denison, Ohio.

This is one of the great board barrack establishments called into existence by the war. It is situated a few miles only from Cincinnati, near the railway, towards the State capital. It has comfortable winter accommodations for twenty thousand soldiers, or more, and has been at times overfilled. At other times it has been used as a camp for convalescents, and a hospital for the wounded and sick. The hospital had seventy-one wards, and the inmates numbered sixteen hundred, perhaps.

Imagine, then, long rows of one-story board barracks stretching along say half a mile, parallel to the railway, with a broad space, a splendid parade-ground, intervening; an extempore one-story pine city, regularly laid out, neatly whitewashed, with flower-beds fronting each barrack, streets paved, and all its municipal arrangements in military perfection.

The chapel, with its history, services, and influence, is the feature most interesting, perhaps, of all in Camp Denison, in connection with the work of the Christian Commission. This, however, belongs rather to the local work of the Cincinnati branch, in whose report it will be found. Yet, in passing, it must be said that the history of its erection illustrates the noble and generous character of the gallant commander of the department even more than the zeal and devotion of the Christian Commission. Here, besides all that has been done by the chairman, secretary, and others connected with the Cincinnati branch of the Commission, delegates have, from time to time, found most interesting work.

When the army of the department was consolidated, and pushed forward to Cumberland Gap, with the indomitable purpose of delivering East Tennessee, and planting there once again the old flag as the rallying point of the loyal, and the protection of the persecuted and oppressed, a field agent was appointed, and every arrangement made for a permanent, separate organization and the prosecution of the work upon a scale worthy of the gallant army and of the loyal, suffering, destitute East Tennesseeans. Of course, the long line of wagon transportation from Lexington, Kentucky, to Knoxville, Tennessee, over the lofty, intervening Cumberland Mountains, could not but embarrass and retard the work. Nevertheless, with a spirit as indomitable as that of the army and its commander, the field agent pushed on, and pushed forward the supplies for his work, until, reaching Knoxville, he established the headquarters of his field within hail of the headquarters of the army, unfurled the banner of the Commission under the folds of the national flag, opened a station with all its appliances for bodily relief and religious benefit to the soldiers, and set earnestly about his work.

Leaving the details and first fruits of this work to a future report, it is requisite now to add only this, that the field agent has been joined by a band of able and earnest men, who love the soldiers, and have large hearts and strong hands wherewithal to do them good, and that the situation is rapidly changing, with

promise of an open railway line of travel and transportation through Nashville and Chattanooga.

Whilst, therefore, there is much, very much, in the work of the year now closed to rejoice the heart, the prospect opening before the Commission for the year upon which we now enter is the cheering one that far greater work and far greater joy awaits us; and surely, if the whole earth were searched over for the purpose, not another body of men could be found in the world whose relief and benefit should be more eagerly or joyously sought than the newly delivered, newly enlisted soldiers of East Tennessee, and the gallant men who delivered them.

So closes the year in the Army of the Ohio.

It commenced under embarrassments, but it closes with an open door. God grant that the door may not again be shut until it is done by the benign hand of peace.

The following special order from the distinguished officer until recently in command of the department, is not the one referred to in the report; but in the absence of that may serve in its place to illustrate his good-will to the Commission.

Special Order of Major-General Burnside.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO,
CINCINNATI, OHIO, August 14, 1863.

Special Orders No. 310.

The delegates of the Christian Commission will be passed through all the hospitals and convalescent camps in this department, upon passes signed by A. E. Chamberlain, President of the Commission.

By order of Major-General BURNSIDE.

W. P. ANDERSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Pass —— ——, delegate United States Christian Commission, in accordance with above order.

—— ——,
President Cincinnati Com. U. S. Christian Commission.

WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

THE first campaign for the capture of Vicksburg ended in the repulse of our troops, and their withdrawal to Milliken's Bend, on the very last days of the year 1862. The second campaign was crowned with perfect and glorious success on the 4th of July, 1863, the event and the day each conferring additional lustre upon the other. The intervening half year was filled up, the first four months in various movements preparatory to the final blow, and the last two in the most brilliant campaign of the war itself. During all this time, the army, both while preparing to strike the blow which should reduce the stronghold of rebellion, break the blockade of the great artery of Western commerce, and sever in two the Confederacy, and while fighting the preliminary battles, and pressing the siege, was in condition most favorable for the various work of the Christian Commission.

The delegate force of the Commission has never been large in this army. It ought, indeed, to be greatly increased. The Western branches, however, are now fully alive to the importance of this, and well able to do it. What the corps of delegates lacked in numbers, however, it made up in efficiency. The Peoria branch of the Commission sent, besides others, its own chief officer, the President of the Young Men's Christian Association, accompanied by an able minister of the Gospel of that city. The St. Louis branch sent its secretary, who became so deeply enlisted in the field-work as to abandon the secretaryship, and remain as the permanent field agent. The Cincinnati branch despatched also its first secretary, with others, full of Welsh fire, better for its purpose than the Greek.

They all, with their various associates, went in separate parties, under the old first plan for the delegate work, taking with them their own supplies for distribution, and each company working at its own discretion as to time and place, without any permanent depots of supply in the field from which to replenish

their stock, or any permanent agency to assign them to places of work, or prepare the way for them, and instruct them how to proceed.

All the way down to the "Army before Vicksburg" they went, stopping from place to place as they went, to visit all the soldiers, well, or sick, or wounded, and do what they could in relief of physical suffering, in cheering them for duty, and in winning them to Jesus. Out into the country they went, wherever within reach there were forces encamped; and besides their public addresses, personal conversations, and various work to give bodily relief, they distributed everywhere Testaments, books, papers, and tracts, until the large supplies taken were entirely exhausted.

Neither phonographic reporters nor photograph artists accompanied them, to preserve for us the scenes or the utterances of their eventful journeyings. If it had been so, we should have had a rare volume of delegate work, illustrated by strange and wonderful pictures of religious, military, river, and camp life. They journeyed on transports, and mingled with soldiers and civilians on the way. Theirs is the Christian philosopher's stone, which turns everything it touches into golden opportunities. To the delegates from Cincinnati, each transport, hospital, camp, and post became an Areopagus for the proclamation of an unknown or neglected God, not forgetting Jesus and the resurrection, with the earnest eloquence that never fails to impart something of its own Welsh fire to every one who hears it. To the delegates from Peoria and St. Louis, each transport, hospital, camp, and post became a Fulton Street prayer-meeting, both for kindling sacred fire in the hearts of others, and for calling it forth to make it spread still farther; and to each and to all, every soldier and every man they met was a man—a mortal, yet immortal *man*—to be saved or lost forever, a brother beloved, for whose salvation no cost could be too dear, no effort too great.

Thus have the Western branches of the Commission followed the Army of the Tennessee through all its marchings, campaigns, and battles in the Mississippi Valley. From the battle-field of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, to the surrender of Vicksburg, its delegates have been on every field, participating in all the dangers, and sharing many of the hardships of the army, all the time sowing broadcast the word of life, and pointing the vigorous,

as well as the sick, the wounded, and dying, to the blessed Saviour, while they have distributed thousands upon thousands of Testaments, suitable books, tracts, and papers to the soldiers. Many of these delegates stood at their posts until, weary and exhausted, they sank down stricken by disease; and some have already entered on the enjoyment of their reward.

The amount of good that has been accomplished is only fully known by the souls who have experienced it, and by Him, without whose knowledge not a sparrow falls to the ground. When the great day of reckoning comes, no doubt among the vast host who shall shine as the stars forever and ever, having turned many to righteousness, will be found those who labored so earnestly in this part of the Master's vineyard.

In June, the field agent of the Army of the Cumberland was detached and sent down to the Army before Vicksburg to organize there upon the plan of permanent local and field agencies, and although over-fatigue in an unfriendly climate threatened him with utter prostration, and obliged his return before the object of his visit was fully accomplished, the way was all prepared, and about the time the national army entered Vicksburg in triumph, an agent was there, a church was procured, and a station opened, with all its appliances of library, reading-room, writing-table, and supplies for distribution, and arrangements for delegate work.

In July, the former secretary of the St. Louis branch was appointed field agent of the Department of the Tennessee, and immediately established his headquarters at Memphis, procured a spacious store-room in the Gayoso Block, and opened there a central depot.

These two stations, Memphis and Vicksburg, have been the principal centres of distribution and of delegate work for the department.

At Little Rock, more recently, a third station has been opened, as a centre for the work in Arkansas.

The following addresses, delivered by the field agent and Colonel R. M. Moore, of the 117th Illinois Regiment, though relating exclusively to Memphis, will convey a comprehensive and vivid idea of the work at each of its centres.

There is one fact alluded to in these addresses that should be explained. It is that of the solution of the difficulty of obtaining or rather of retaining the commodious wareroom occupied by the Commission in Memphis.

This wareroom belonged to one who perhaps was away from Memphis at the time the city was surrendered. It was taken by the authorities, and given to the Commission for use. The owner, however—if absent—returned, took the oath of allegiance, reclaimed his property, and demanded a rent of fifty dollars or more a month. The agent was at his wit's end. He first laid his case before God, then took it to General Hurlbut.

The trouble the agent had in trying to find another suitable room he himself has given in his address, and the noble and generous solution of the difficulty by General Hurlbut, who himself pledged and regularly pays the rent, is given by Colonel Moore.

ADDRESS AND REPORT OF MR. K. A. BURNELL.

Six months ago this day, in Christ's name and that of the Christian Commission, we took possession of these rooms. It was the third day of diligent effort, in seeking a home for an enterprise that we believed would be a blessing to the soldiers, to the city, and exert a wide and widening reflex home influence. On turning the key upon a room as uninviting and filthy as could be well imagined, the first thing was to kneel down and consecrate it, and all that was to grow out of it, to God. The individual prayer was the inauguration of the daily prayer-meeting, which we are devoutly grateful to God to say has been continued every day since, and, by divine grace, will be while we have any connection with or influence over this instrumentality of honoring God. On this half-yearly anniversary, it is due to you, to the Commission and the friends at home, that we detail somewhat of the wonderful dealing of God in leading us so faithfully, so tenderly, and in Him, through Him, and to Him shall be all the glory. The condition of the rooms was such that it was ten days before we had the shelves, counters, and all complete, although the second day we had boxes opened, and our work of supplying the soldiers with "leaves for the healing of the nations" went on from that time. An inci-

dent of one day of the prayer-meeting with two colored white-washers will illustrate. One of them had told me that he loved God, and I was waiting for the heart's condition of the second to appear, when I said to them, "We have a daily prayer-meeting, and wish you to unite." The second brother said, "I dun know much bout dat ar; but I likes to be wid um who does pray." The simple and hearty union with us, who had made an agreement with Israel's God to maintain a daily service, was truly most touching, most gratifying. The difficulties that we have met in the progress of this meeting have been neither few nor small; but an always-faithful Master has enabled us to meet them,—yes, and overcome them in a way that makes us very grateful to Him. Our very distinct impressions are, that the difficulties in sustaining a daily service are seldom, if ever, larger than in this instance. Hoping that it may be suggestive, and so the dear Saviour's name honored, we must dwell briefly upon this point.

The sustaining of the daily service was a *fixed fact* in the outset—a determination. The announcement was distinctly and clearly made, and oft and oft again repeated, publicly and privately, that thirty minutes each afternoon would be devoted to prayer. Our sign was hung across the street, and every passer-by understood it. The modest little finger-board at the door, with its index hand pointing to the rear, said, "Daily Prayer-meeting, 4 P. M. For thirty minutes we stop to commune with God." One poor sinner, whom Jesus loves, said to one of our workers, "When I read that little finger-board, 'For thirty minutes we stop to commune with God,' I said to myself, 'I wonder how they do it?'" Hundreds have had similar feelings awakened in their souls by the reading of our signs, and a boundless future will only reveal the amount of good done even by this little instrumentality. The effect of the statement that there would be no failure, under any circumstances, has been so unmistakable, and was so before many weeks had passed, that we take a real joy in thanking God and taking courage. One soldier said, "It does us a positive good in camp to know that there is one place where every day we can meet with those who feel the importance of daily worship." One thanked God in the prayer-meeting that they could come away from the unhappy

atmosphere of the camp and barracks, and mingle in this atmosphere of worship and heaven. One, in brief remarks, has recently said, "I was so instructed yesterday on going from these rooms to our barracks. I went away with 'my peace like a river; yea, it passed all understanding.'"

The brother gave a vivid look to the contrast between the aims and surroundings of this room and the condition of their camps.

We have, in repeated instances, and for successive days, had mechanical operations going forward, as you all know, in the way of a partition, shelves, &c.; but in no instance has the daily service been omitted. This union of working and praying has been always suggestive, instructive, and pleasing. Last Saturday, between eight A. M. and five P. M., with the glad assistance of a half dozen or more interested soldiers, we made seats to accommodate one hundred and twenty-five more in the rooms. Fifteen dollars was saved to Christ and the Commission, and the interest of the soldiers intensified. The happiness of the short remarks and the pleadings with God for special objects, is daily exemplified. The requests in writing laid upon the table, are often beautiful in their mechanical execution, touching in their Christian heartiness, and comprehensive in word and meaning. The singing-school in the morning adds much to the interest. The frequent extemporized seasons of singing remind us of the seasons of family song at home. No one questions the subduing and ennobling influence of music in all the home relations. Who, then, we beg to be informed, will not do all in their power to have every war-worn soldier come under its elevating influence? Our Sabbath service is exerting a wide influence. Sometimes over two hundred gather to pass what all seem to regard as the most happy hour of the week. The addresses and sermons presented on the Sabbath, we have aimed to make practical and faithful,—such themes as Christian usefulness, personal effort, and the effort for the army. Naturalness in religious things and others of kindred character, have been dwelt upon. I do not remember a Sabbath or scarcely a week-day service in which some one has not, and often several, have lingered to talk personally about their condition as Christians or as sinners. A volume, and not small,

might be prepared of incidents of this kind. I have space but for one. My esteemed co-laborer, Rev. F. G. Ensign, and self, left the rooms at the close of an evening meeting. It was beautiful moonlight; about half past nine. We had turned the first corner, and a soldier left the opposite walk and stepped into the mud of the street as though it was unobserved. Coming up, I recognized by the hanging head a hero in heart-conflict. It is not being under fire; it is not the rain of shot and shell, of canister and grape; not the bringing to bear of Parrotts or Dahlgrens,

> "For it's always worse to think of
> Than to hear the cannon boom,"

but it is when God, by the enginery of his Spirit, says, "You want my guidance."

"I see you are in trouble, brother soldier."

"Yes," his sobs choking his utterance.

"What can I do for you?" said I, throwing my arm over his shoulder.

His reply was his casting his arm around my waist, and sobbing like a child, while we walked a half block by the pale moon's light in silence, save the deep heart-sobs of the Union veteran.

The strong throbbings of his heart moved my soul, every pulsation of which I felt, as though there was no need of my own beating.

"Tell me," said I, "what is your trouble?"

In broken English (he is German) he said:

"I's so tempted, brudder, so tempted I can't stand it."

"What is your temptation? Tell us. You know we love you."

"Yes, dat I knows. Dat's why I waits to tell you. My comrade asks me to go theatre, ask me drink, ask me play card, ask me go de way of her who steps on hell, and whose house be dead. O I so tempted, brudders."

Said I, "Have you been to the theatre?"

"No, but my comrade go, and I so tempted."

"Have you drank?"

"Well, de General (he is on detached duty at headquarters), treats us boys with wine, and I takes a little wid the rest."

"Had you not better refuse?"

"I know dat now. Dis meeting to-night settle dat."

We stood at the corner of the street, the bright moon shining upon us three, so peacefully, so cheerfully. The German brother (he evidently is a Christian, and was for years before entering the service) said, "O dose rooms, dose meetings, dat meeting to-night!" In silence we stood by the lamp-post at the street corner, he breaking it by saying, "Dat meeting to-night keeps me. I make resolutions, and I know you prays for me."

We took off our hats, and then and there, leaning upon each other's shoulders, we looked up to Him who was tempted in all points like as we, yet without sin. The season was precious, the communions intimate, and our German brother enabled to feel that He who was tempted in all points like as we, yet without sin, was willing to succor him. My brother soldiers, brother officers, and friends, the Brother of brothers gave me of temptation's power a new view, and a deeper, closer, more determined, and constant longing after equipment and qualifications to do the Master's work.

We must say a word to you about the close personal interviews that we try to make common, as well as winning. Within a few hours, a colonel, youthful (not twenty-four), pure-faced, and unassuming, stood quietly reading at our inclined table. His modesty won my heart at once. Ten minutes made us friends for all of life. He told me that he was not a Christian, and why not, with as much honesty and faithful simplicity as one of my motherless boys would tell of his soul working. His history, how interesting! The second man in that noble State of Iowa to enlist, and within the journeying of two suns after the Sumter bombardment, he entered the three months' service as a private, and was soon made orderly sergeant. After the three months he recruited a company, and wore two bars. In May last the gold leaf was donned, in September the silver, and he has acted the spread eagle since. Soon, evidently, it will be so formally. He bears his honors so meekly. To love such a man is natural. I do not need to ask how men feel towards such a commander. I give these incidents as representative, as I have no time to enlarge.

We have had faith for years in woman's work and mission, and will tell you that we are trying practically to illustrate that

her gentle hand, winning way, and look of love and sisterly tenderness, is not a small part of these rooms' attractions. A youthful soldier well remarked, a few days since, "I can see how men can leave their homes, and come down in the army, and eat hardtack, and sleep on the ground; but when cultivated, Christian women leave aged parents all alone for our sakes, I think it time that we mend our ways."

I now hand you our report for the six months; and while the summing up is blessed, it is really but a small part of what has been done.

We have distributed and supplied to regiments at the different posts, the Sixteenth Army Corps, and to the branch office at Little Rock, Arkansas, 98,910 papers, 23,524 Testaments, 29,014 soldiers' books, 132,439 pages of tracts, 2114 bound volumes, and 7556 soldiers' hymn-books. We have held at the rooms one hundred and fifty-six prayer-meetings and twenty-eight preaching services. Out of the rooms we have held about seventy services, preaching and prayer. The hospitals in the city have been liberally supplied with reading. The Washington, Jackson, Union, Webster, Overton, and Adams hospitals were furnished with libraries of choice books when the rooms were first opened. Since then the Gayoso Hospital has been supplied with a library of such books as we have had. The Irving Block has been liberally supplied with Testaments and papers, and grants of paper have frequently been made to those of our soldiers so unfortunate as to be found in that prison. Our rooms have been visited—estimating the number daily at 120, which, I think, it will average—by 18,400 soldiers. The average attendance at the prayer-meetings is as follows: July, commencing the 18th, 10; August, 15; September, 20; October, 25; November, 12; December, 28; January, to this date, 50; making the general average for the whole time 25.

While this number may appear very small, it must be remembered that the troops have been moving. Often has the number increased to forty, and then immediately decreased to five. The men were sent away, either discharged from hospitals, or their regiments ordered to move. It is but due to the Commission, and justice to my excellent co-laborer, Rev. F. G. Ensign, that I speak of my own absence from here of more than one-half of

the six months, in work elsewhere. The first nine weeks were very laborious. From July 16th to the 11th of September there is but One that knows, or ever will know, what it was. An absence of three or four weeks, to hold a series of Christian Commission meetings in Illinois, was deemed best. When, in that great State, the groans of the dying from Chattanooga called so loudly that the Chicago committee thought best for me to go there for a few weeks—not quite six weeks—as delegate of the Commission, under the direction of Rev. E. P. Smith, field agent for the Department of the Cumberland, and with such reverend Christian gentlemen as co-laborers as Messrs. Hawes of Maine, Butterfield of New Hampshire, and High of Massachusetts, I need not say I had rich experience. Four weeks were profitably expended, on returning, in holding Christian Commission meetings, in introducing daily services where not formed, and aiding and assisting in those already working nobly. Four days and a Sabbath were passed at each, Nashville, Louisville, and Indianapolis, Thanksgiving in Chicago, three days and a Sabbath in Milwaukie, a Sabbath and six services at Madison, Wisconsin, two Sabbaths and eight days in St. Louis, with two precious meetings on the Mary E. Forsyth, arriving here Christmas day. The forty-one days at Chattanooga gave me time and the strength to hold over two hundred and forty hospital, ward, tent, squad, and other meetings, and write three hundred and eighty-eight letters. The close, hearty, personal interviews, that are really the central idea of all our work, plan, and prayers, are numbered only by Him who keeps faithful record. I saw enough of my co-laborer before leaving, in September, to feel a pleasant satisfaction in intrusting the work to him. The general love for him and the cause is but proof that I was not mistaken. Since our opening we have averaged three laborers; since Christmas we have had seven. They will soon be again reduced, although we hope to average six in the future. All will be glad to know that a Young Men's Christian Association has been formed in this city, under favorable auspices, and the Christian Commission, with the largest heart, opens its rooms to their meetings, and will do anything and everything consistent to further its interests. Do I need, on this delightful anniversary, to invite the Christian people of

this city (one might almost deem it important), when I mention that during the six months we have had one prayer from one citizen of this city of thirty odd thousand people. You will now listen to Mr. Ensign, and our loved brother in Christ, Colonel R. M. Moore, 117th Illinois, who knows what the Commission is and has done.

ADDRESS OF COLONEL R. M. MOORE, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH ILLINOIS

My dear friends—for such I esteem all here this afternoon—it is a pleasure to speak of so noble a cause as the Christian Commission, and my only regret is that one more capable of holding it up in its true light before you had not been selected for this occasion, its semi-annual anniversary. Six months ago to-day, Mr. Burnell opened this room and hung out in front of the door there that modest sign, with its modest but earnest appeal, so much in keeping with the Gospel; and the Christian Commission became a living institution here. What it has been since, many of you know who are present here to-day, and many who are not here. To you and to them it has been a sweet place of refuge when camp-weary and soul-hungry. Not soon will it be forgotten by any who have enjoyed its life-sweetening power. As you go hence in the discharge of duty, this power will go with you, nor will it forsake you, as you trudge your weary way through deep mud and drenching rain. It will then be, we trust, meat to make you cheerful and strong, which your ungodly comrade will know not of. Hard, indeed, is the soldier's lot, and much he needs to cheer him. One left a flower-clad cottage far away to the North on a beautiful prairie, or in a lovely dale, or on the margin of a silvery lake, nearly three years ago, and said to her whom his heart held dearest, keep the altar fires of our little family aglow while I go and defend them. And while she kept vigils at that lonely home, he did noble battle for his country at Donelson or Shiloh. None knew of his heart-throbs as he lay in the trenches by night, and thought of her whose heart-throbs were equal to his. And, perhaps, after many months' weary watchings, weepings, and longings, his angel-one went up to watch from the window of heaven; and, though there were none so rude as to chide the sorrowings of the bereaved soldier, yet, as he felt an aching void within, he

longed for a sweeter place than the cheerless camp, and more soothing words than those of his heedless brother-soldiers. Need I tell you that here, or in a place like this, he finds that sweeter place, and hears those words of sympathy that are more to him than the balm of Gilead to his bleeding heart. The history of this one is the history of many thousands since this cruel war began. The history of another is that of the tender son of a tender mother. He, like his fellow, did his duty nobly on the field of death; but often has he felt a longing for the soothing words of his tender mother, the kind counsel of his loving father, and the healing sympathy of a gentle sister. How cheering to such a son is a place like this! There are more than twenty thousand such sons in our armies to-day. Had I time, I might tell you of others like these, who stood firm where the bravest might falter, but felt a longing for some one to come, like Good Samaritans, when the carnage ended, to assist them in burying their loved comrades and caring for the dying. There is another class of young men who have obeyed their country's call. It is that class that was careless and reckless at home; but hardships, exposure, and the scenes of death, have rendered them more thoughtful, and they have felt that, if there were those with them to take them by the hand and say, "Brother, won't you do better?" they would have said "Yes" gladly.

Well, now, for just such as these was the Christian Commission inaugurated; just for these it has sent such brothers as these, Messrs. Burnell and Ensign, and such sisters as these, Mrs. Northrup and Misses Burnell and Ingalls, with willing hands to work, and with hearts to sympathize with you all. And this is but a branch of the great institution which the noble people at home have launched, as so many life-boats, to save the drowning. You may not know with what patience, labors, prayers, and anxiety Mr. Burnell launched this one; but I do, and I trust he will pardon me while I allude to it. In the first place, it is no easy task to procure a room like this without cost to the Commission, which is worth a thousand dollars a year in a place where rooms are so scarce and rents so high. Then, too, there are many in authority who care for none of these things. To many of these he applied, and was more astonished at the little sympathy they felt in the cause than in his fail-

ure. But nothing daunted, he continued to pray, hope, and work; and such was his zeal, that he took the case to Major-General Hurlbut, and so favorable was the impression made on his mind, that he said Mr. Burnell should have this room, if he, General Hurlbut, had to pay the rent from his own pocket. And sure enough, in a few days a draft for the first month's rent was furnished, and, more than that, it has been promptly furnished ever since. All honor to General Hurlbut for so noble an act. The nation has honored him for his valor at Shiloh and his deeds of heroism on the Hatchie; but this act, when known, as it will be, will be remembered like the widow's mite.

This Christian Commission room is a proud monument to the nobleness of heart of our Major-General commanding. The securing the room was not all the labor Mr. Burnell and his worthy colaborer, Mr. Ensign, have done. Look around on these benches, tables, and shelves. They were rough boards when they secured them; but, with aid from some soldiers and their own hands, they are as you see them. All this has been the work of six months, while the daily meetings have kept up and the distribution of a vast amount of reading matter to those soldiers who have daily thronged this room. None but Him who keeps a record above can tell the good that has already been accomplished. Then, too, think of the whole Christian Commission, from East to West, with its ministering servants following our armies as gleaners, the reapers, to bind up and to save. It, as well as the Sanitary Commission, is American. They do honor to the hearts of our people; and when the nation shall have triumphed over treason, as it will, and when it shall have gathered all its laurels, they will be the brightest of them all. The banner of the Christian Commission is simply the banner of our country, sanctified to God. This is a gift from that loyal firm in St. Louis, Ticknor & Company. Wherever our army has gone in the West, it has established a branch of their firm and flung out that proud banner. Had all business men been as true to their colors as they have been, we had had no war. Some of you, my fellow-soldiers, have followed our proud emblem to victory; I have not yet done so, but hope to. I would ask no prouder meed of praise than to have it said of me that, in defending my flag, I remembered my God. And this, my fellow-

soldiers, I want you to do. Look at that beautiful banner, and consider its sacred emblems. Let your love to God and your country be as loyal as its red; let your characters be as pure as its white, and let your fidelity be as true as its blue, and let your determination to put down the rebellion be as permanent as its stars. While defending it, we should ever remember such noble-hearted friends as these. Our nation should honor and remember them. But I assure you, though the nation should forget them, there is One who will not forget them when He comes to gather up earth's jewels. And now, as I do not wish to occupy more of your time, let me but add: Brothers, sisters, go on; brother soldiers, never, never falter in your duty to that sacred flag, and never, never forget God.

Two facts remain to be mentioned. Thursday, August 6th, was designated by the President as a day of national thanksgiving for the glorious victories which so wonderfully signalized the 4th of July, 1863. Poor indeed was the condition of the population of Memphis. to add anything to the grand cloud of incense rising from the glad hearts of a grateful nation! Nevertheless thanksgiving was kept in Memphis. The rooms of the Commission were thrown open. The ladies prepared a sumptuous dinner. A table, more than 100 feet long, was loaded with good things, and surrounded by loyal guests. Gen. J. D. Webster presided. When ample justice had been done to the good things provided, Gen. Webster was called out by a toast. Other toasts and speeches followed in the train, and thus the favor of God to our imperilled country was not left without glad recognition even in Memphis.

Later in August, nearly at its close, the hero of Vicksburg paid a visit to Memphis. The opportunity was seized upon to give him an ovation. At the dinner given him, amongst the regular toasts was the following:

"The United States Christian Commission, with its volunteer labor and unpaid agency. We recognize it as strength to the loyal and dismay to traitors."

This toast, with the happy response of Mr. Burnell, formed one of the significant features of that festive occasion, as well as one of the many marks of the high appreciation of the Christian Commission in the Army.

WORK AMONGST THE REBEL PRISONERS OF FORT DELAWARE.

The general principle which has actuated the delegates of the Christian Commission on the battle-field has been that of binding up the wounds of the fallen, friend and foe alike, pouring in the oil and wine, taking them up and placing them in comfortable quarters, at whatever cost of labor, supplies, or money. This was abundantly illustrated at Gettysburg, where some thousands of the foe, wounded, side by side with our own, came into our hands to be cared for, and on many other fields. Supplies of hospital stores for the sick, and of religious reading matter for all of the thousands at Fort Delaware, have been sent to them from time to time, as their necessities required.

Delegates, too, have gone to aid the chaplains in their arduous work, most of them for a few days only at a time, but some of them for periods of considerable length; one for the full term of six weeks. The first delegate sent to the fort to remain was one who was extremely desirous of some arrangement by which he could reside, as long as occasion should require, among the Union prisoners at Richmond. This not being practicable, he willingly accepted the proposition to take up his abode for the time amongst the rebel prisoners at Fort Delaware.

Some of the delegates devoted themselves to the sick, of whom there were at times about six hundred in the hospitals; others to the well in the barracks, averaging not far from nine thousand; others both ministered to the sick, and preached to the well.

The Chairman of the Commission, who visited the fort with Mr. Grant, was intensely interested, and deeply impressed, both by the vast congregation assembled to hear the addresses of their

visitors upon the eternal interests of their souls, and by the eagerness manifested in the sea of upturned faces. Professor Stoever of Gettysburg, Rev. Mr. Parvin, Rev. Dr. Brainerd, and others, of Philadelphia, were similarly impressed; and left also their impress for good upon the hearts of the thousands who heard them.

The reception given to the delegates generally has been frank, cordial, and hearty, the desire for religious instruction very remarkable, and the value placed upon the reading matter generally, especially upon tracts, which could be sent home, or kept to carry with them when they should return, very striking.

One of the delegates returned states in his report that he has never seen a single defaced, mutilated, or neglected tract there in all his rounds, and that he has been often greeted by expressions like this, as he has handed tracts to one and another: "This makes the — tract I have received. I keep them all after I have read them to take them home;" or, "My wife must read this, too. I shall keep it and give it to her when I get home again."

He states, also, that whilst he was distributing tracts and Testaments from the basket on his arm, crowds gathering around him would call on him for an address, saying, "Now give us a talk," to which he always responded at once, and that they always gave him attentive, impressive audience, and never interrupted him by a single disrespectful remark or exclamation.

There are two chaplains at the fort. The following letter is from the one having the prisoners more especially as his parishoners.

Letter from Rev. Wm. H. Paddock, Chaplain United States Army, Fort Delaware.

Hon. George H. Stuart,
President United States Christian Commission.

Dear Sir: On the commencement of a new year it is natural to review the work of the year, and therefore I readily respond to your request. When ordered here from Philadelphia, in June

last, I found a great field of labor; but after the battle of Gettysburg, as one of the Christian Commission wrote me, mine was "the largest parish in America." Our island of seventy-five acres was then, and for months afterwards, more thickly populated than any of our cities. The prisoners alone numbered eleven thousand. This "mass of humanity," as truly named by the Rev. Dr. Brainerd, was poured in upon us all at once, in the heats of summer, before the Government could properly prepare for their reception. Full of the bruise of battle, thousands of them completely broken in spirit and constitution, unwilling and unable, for the most part, to take daily exercise, what wonder is it that our temporary hospital was soon crowded to overflowing. At great expense, working night and day, the Government erected a spacious hospital. It has eight hundred beds, and is as completely and comfortably arranged as any of our hospitals in Philadelphia; but even this, for a time, was too small by two hundred beds. In the midst of all this sickness, which has laid in death, on the opposite shore of Jersey, more than one thousand of the poor prisoners, your Commission has given me aid which could not be dispensed with, aid from week to week, by tracts, books, stationery, medicines, stimulants, and clothing, aid especially grateful to me in my overcrowded work by the personal help of distinguished clergymen and laymen of the different denominations, who for Christ's sake remembered the sick and in prison. The Revs. Holman of Connecticut, Gaston of Ohio, Merrill of Maine, and Messrs. Parker and R. Pearsall Smith of Philadelphia, were among the earlier and efficient co-workers. The Rev. T. T. Bradford of Pennsylvania, for six weeks labored most earnestly and acceptably. Occasional Sunday services were gladly received from the Rev. Messrs. Dickinson of Delaware, Jonathan and A. B. Cross of Maryland, Parvin and Mears of Philadelphia, Morton and Dr. Hall of New York, and Dr. Baird of New Jersey, while the visits of the Rev. Dr. Brainerd, and of the President of the Christian Commission, will not soon be forgotten.

The labors of these co-workers from the Commission terminated with the beginning of cold weather; but the services of my associate, the Rev. E. J. Way, of the Rev. Dr. Handy, poli-

tical prisoner, and of J. Calhoun Russell, Confederate chaplain, have been successfully continued all along to this time, and have been besides of the greatest value as illustrative of Christian Union, though often differing in a worldly point of view.

The Day of Judgment alone will reveal the worth of the great missionary work of the Christian Commission here. That it disarms our enemies more than the weapons of our national warfare we daily hear; and it was the first fruits of a good work yet going on, the present value of which is perhaps threescore souls dedicated to the cause of Christ.

In connection with an account of the relief of Union prisoners in Richmond will be given a testimonial from about fifty officers on Johnson's Island of the kind treatment received by them and their fellow-sufferers at Gettysburg.

The following is from a few privates, who seem to have been constrained to write it by their own generous impulses of gratitude. It was written with a pencil, the paper evidently resting upon a blanket or some other soft surface, as the letters were all deeply indented. The date, too, is significant: written first "Wounded camp," &c., then the word wounded crossed out, and "Hospital" interlined in its stead.

HOSPITAL CAMP, NEAR GETTYSBURG, PA.,
July 11, 1863.

We, the undersigned, prisoners of war, desiring to express our gratitude for the kindness and attention shown to us by the gentlemanly delegates of the Christian Commission, the Christian spirit with which they have at all times visited our bed of pain, and the delicate and ready hand which they have always extended to our relief, prompts us to heartfelt thanks. Particularly would we address our thanks to delegate James Crawford, he having had more immediate charge of our little circle. Although we will stand ever ready to contend against their hosts, as our foemen, in the field, and defy their assaults upon our dear country and her institutions, yet we can only remember the

treatment of these Christians towards us, their wounded foe, with hearts of gratitude, and do hereunto affix our names.

Private JAMES R. WOOD,
Company C, Second Georgia Battery.

Private W. P. CARLOSS,
Company C, Second Georgia Battery.

C. A. RIDOUT,
Company D, Eleventh Mississippi Regiment.

JOHN B. SMINT,
Company A, Forty-eighth Georgia Regiment.

Others would have added their names, but being taken away, we can only say their thanks are with ours.

RELIEF OF UNION PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

INSTANTLY upon the reception of intelligence from Chattanooga that Rev. John Hussey had been taken, on the 20th of September, and probably carried captive from the Chickamauga to Richmond, inquiry by letter was made of the Richmond authorities whether he had arrived there, and the answer returned that there was "no such man in any of the prisons in and around Richmond." The same mail, however, brought a letter, dated "Castle Thunder," from Mr. Hussey himself, asking the Commission to send him food and clothing to relieve him from hunger and cold, and to secure, if possible, his early release from the loathsome "castle."

A letter was written to Jay Cooke, Esq., then at Sandusky, Ohio, to procure a testimonial from such of the thousands who had been benefited at Gettysburg by delegates of the Commission, as might be found on Johnson's Island, to send forward to

Richmond for the purpose of influencing the release of Mr. Hussey. Mr. Cooke promptly returned the following:

DEPOT FOR PRISONERS,
JOHNSON'S ISLAND, NEAR SANDUSKY, OHIO,
October 31, 1863.

The undersigned, prisoners of war at Johnson's Island, do hereby certify that, from their personal knowledge and experience, the delegates of the United States Christian Commission, in their Christian efforts to relieve the sick and wounded of the various battle-fields, make no difference or discrimination between the contending parties, relieving alike the sufferings and wants of the Confederate and Federal men and officers, and we therefore sincerely trust, that the authorities at Richmond and elsewhere will treat any of said delegates that may fall into their hands with the kindness justly due to them, and grant them a speedy return to their Christian work.

(Signed by)

J. M. Jackson, 1st Lieut. 11th Ga.
B. G. Brown, Capt. 7th Va. Inf.
P. E. Maher, Lieut. 6th Ala.
J. J. Dowell, Capt. 7th Tenn.
Z. A. Blanton, Capt. 18th Va.
T. C. Powell, Adjt. 47th N. C.
B. S. Spann, Lieut. 6th Ala.
W. T. King, Lieut. 51st Ga.
M. J. Bulger, Lieut. Co. C, 47th Ala.
M. A. Parks, Lieut. Col. 52d N. C.
W. L. Rowe, Capt. 6th Ala.
T. W. Johnson, Capt. 11th Ga.
Jas. R. Herbert, Lieut. Col. 1st Md.
Wm. S. Rankin, Lieut. Col. 21st N. C.
Jack Brown, Col. 59th Ga.
E. P. Dismukes, Lieut. Co. F, 8th Fla.
R. N. Gardner, Capt. Co. K, 5th Fla.
Geo. H. Jones, Capt. Co. B, 22d Ga.
C. R. Rice, 2d Lieut. Co. H, 8th Ala.
L. M. Purcell, 1st Lieut. Co. E, 40th Va.
J. F. Cross, 1st Lieut. Co. B, 5th N. C.
Jas. McAfee, Capt. Co. I, 22d Ga.
Chas. E. Ellmore, 2d Lieut. Co. G, 57th N. C.
Wm. A. Greene, 1st Lieut. Co. K, 1st Miss. Art.
A. J. Herod, Capt. Battery B, 1st Miss. L. Art.
Wm. Ludlow, 1st Lieut. 39th Miss.
J. Eastham, Lieut. 12th Va. Cav.
Albert Garrison, Lieut. 19th Va.
J. S. Melvin, Adjt. 39th Miss.
S. McGarrah, Lieut. 39th Miss.
Willis Randle, Lieut. 52d N. C.
L. L. Vaughan, Lieut. 18th Va.
N. T. Liles, Lieut. 39th Miss.
W. F. Ryan, Lieut. Co. E, 8th Ala.
R. S. McClung, Capt. Co. K, 15th Ark.
J. E. Morgan, Capt. 13th Ark.
A. M. De Bardelehem, Co. B, 8th Ala.
W. H. Wiles, 23d Ark.
J. Edwards, Col. 42d Ala.
R. T. Scott, Supt. Surgeon 4th Ala. Cav.
W. H. Edwards, Capt. & Q.M. 49th Ala.
T. J. Taylor, Capt. Co. K, 49th Ala.
Geo. S. Jones, Co. B, 2d Ga. Bat.

Jno. E. Weymouth, Co. E, 18th Va.
A. Kohler, Capt. Co. G, 8th Ala.
F. B. Miller, 2d Lieut. Co. C, 8th Ala.
John S. Ray, Lieut. Co. K, 38th N. C.
Thomas B. Jackson, Lieut. Co. C., 3d Va. Infantry.

Without waiting for the answer from Mr. Cooke, a letter was written to Mr. Hussey, stating that an appeal for his release would be made to the authorities in Richmond immediately, upon the ground that he was a non-combatant, a delegate of the Christian Commission, taken on the battle-field, where he was under authority ministering to the wounded; that the delegates had always ministered alike to friend and foe; that the thousands of rebel wounded at Gettysburg had been kindly cared for by them; that the Commission was doing all that could lawfully be done for those then in Fort Delaware, and that testimonials to this effect would be sent forward.

This letter, as it passed under the scrutiny of the Commissioner at Richmond, decided the release of Mr. Hussey without delay. The appeal was formally made, and the testimonials transmitted; but already, before they arrived, the released delegate was happily on his return.

Simultaneous with the letter of Mr. Hussey, came an appeal to the Commission through another channel, opening the way for the transmission of food, clothing, and medicine to the suffering captives in Libby Prison, Castle Thunder, the Tobacco Warehouses, and on Belle Island.

Immediately a box had been packed and shipped for Mr. Hussey, which was received, not by him, because he was released the day before its arrival, but by Captain Conover, of Ohio, a fellow-captive and friend; and with the box for Mr. Hussey a limited but choice shipment was made of a few boxes to Lieutenant W. F. Randolph, in Libby Prison, which was duly received and gladly distributed, as intended, amongst his fellow-prisoners. This shipment was immediately acknowledged by General Meredith at Fortress Monroe, and its safe arrival at Richmond announced by the following letter from Major John E. Mulford, Assistant Commissioner of Exchange:

OFFICE COMMISSIONER OF EXCHANGE,
FORTRESS MONROE, VA., November 3, 1863.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,
Chairman Christian Commission, Philadelphia.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that twenty-one pack-

ages, addressed "Lieutenant W. F. Randolph, Fifth United States Artillery, Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia," and one addressed "Rev. John Hussey, Castle Thunder, Richmond, Virginia," containing clothing and other comforts, forwarded by the Christian Commission, for the benefit of our suffering prisoners in the hands of the enemy, have been received and delivered by me to the authorities at Richmond, and I trust and believe they have, ere this, found their way to and made glad the hearts of many of those for whom they were intended.

Your noble association cannot find a wider or worthier field than this for its work of benevolence and charity; nor do I believe any other where so much good may be done, or so great an amount of real suffering can be alleviated as here, even at the cost of redoubled efforts and means.

Should you desire to make any further shipments, address to the party whom you wish to receive and distribute the articles, in care of Brigadier-General S. A. Meredith, Commissioner for Exchange of Prisoners, Fortress Monroe, Virginia," and forward by Adams' Express. On arrival at Fortress Monroe, such packages will be forwarded to Richmond via flag of truce.

With heartfelt thanks on behalf of the recipients of your bounty, I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN E. MULFORD,

Major and Assistant Agent for Exchange.

Thus encouraged, the Commission opened its doors to receive all that should be offered suitable for the purpose, and especially for money to purchase articles most needed and most valuable to afford the required relief and comfort to the thousands of wretched captives.

The touching and terrible statements made of the condition of the inmates of these prisons moved all hearts irresistibly, and opened the purse of the people to supply, without limit, the means of relief. The only question was, whether that which should be sent could be pushed through and actually placed in the hands of the prisoners themselves.

The arrival of three hundred and fifty men at Annapolis, on the 20th of November, in the most deplorable condition, six

having died on the way, and very many marked for the grave within a few hours or days at the farthest, served to increase sympathy and cause unbounded indignation.

The facts in the case were made public, and contributions flowed in apace. Stores were purchased, packed, and sent forward from day to day in large quantities.

The following is the shipment of one day:

U. S. Christian Commission, Office No. 11 Bank Street,
Philadelphia, Nov. 25, 1863.

Invoice of forty-four packages sent by United States Christian Commission to Union prisoners in Tobacco Warehouses, Richmond, Va., care Brigadier-General Meredith, Fortress Monroe, Va. (via flag of truce), per express, freight paid:

704 lbs. ham,
350 lbs. dried beef,
1 bbl. dried apples,
1 bbl. white sugar,
1 chest tea,
1 cask butter,
1 cheese,
1 bbl. family crackers,
2 bbls. soda crackers,
1 cask pickles,
1 bbl. onions,
2 bbls. potatoes and onions,
6 kegs pickled cabbage,
80 lbs. corn starch,
80 lbs. farina,
60 lbs. white soap,
150 lbs. ground coffee,
192 cans condensed milk,
500 Two Soldiers,
500 Peter Norse,
500 Aged Pensioner,
500 What did the Angel wipe it out with?
500 Roll Call,
30 Signet Ring,
15 Pilgrim's Progress,
200 Soldier's Pocket Book (German),
1 large and valuable box of assorted medicine from P. & W.
2 doz. French mustard,
36 qts. spiced blackberry syrup,
28 bottles currant wine,
1 box dried fruit and jelly,
1 box sundries,
1 box comfort-bags, books and pamphlets,
81 lbs. beef-tea jelly,
22 lbs. beef-tea cakes,
12 doz. knives,
12 doz. forks,
50 towels,
72 pens,
72 pen-holders,
1000 envelopes,
2 reams note paper,
100 Christian Times,
500 Messengers,
350 Apologist,
200 S. S. Times,
100 Zion's Herald,
363 Nonpareil Testaments (cloth),
500 " " (sheep),
50 True Story of Lucknow,
200 Good Soldiers,

150 Something for Hospital,
50 Come to Jesus,
6000 pp. Tracts, Soldiers' Series No. 2,
500 Parish Visitor,
600 Good News,
91 Blood of Jesus,
100 Soldier's Prayer Book,
1260 Soldier's Book (Greenbacks),
6 Green Pastures,
6 Words of Comfort,
300 Soldier's Hymn Books,
200 Soldier's Pocket Book.

From day to day despatches and letters from General Meredith and Major Mulford were received, and occasionally an acknowledgment directly from the prisons, showing that the goods shipped were faithfully delivered and distributed to the prisoners.

Efforts, though always unsuccessful, were made at different times and in various ways to obtain consent of the Richmond authorities to the residence of one or more agents of the Christian Commission in Richmond, in the prisons if not elsewhere in the city, to receive and distribute the supplies sent.

The narrow channel open was evidently clogged soon after the tide of relief from the North commenced setting in to the rebel capital, and every day seemed to clog it still further. It is charitable, and perhaps true, to say that the means of transportation from City Point, where our flag of truce boat delivered all to the flag of truce boat for transmission to Richmond, was utterly insufficient for the conveyance of all that came pouring in from the open hands of the people in the loyal States.

However that may be, at last the announcement came that nothing more would be received except packages from private persons to individual prisoners, and very reluctantly the Christian Commision ceased this most beneficent work. God grant that soon the need for it may be at an end, and our brave men, all who survive their tedious captivity, may be once more at liberty.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

BOSTON COMMITTEE.

Report of the Army Committee of the "Boston Young Men's Christian Association."

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,
Chairman United States Christian Commission.

The Committee, in submitting the annual report of their labor during the past year, are deeply impressed with the evidence of the manifest guidance and blessing of Providence in their humble and imperfect efforts to contribute something to the great work of the Christian Commission, through whose efficient agency such extended influence has been exerted in the spiritual welfare of the devoted patriots of our land. The Committee have not deemed it expedient to hold a public meeting to appeal for aid in Boston since the anniversary meeting in May last; but numerous meetings have been held throughout this state and the adjoining states of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, under the immediate agency and especial direction of the resident member* here of the Executive Committee of the Christian Commission, aided by returned delegates, and in some instances by the Chairman† of the Commission.

The value of the services of returned delegates in the home fields will be best illustrated by a few instances.

S. E. Bridgman, Esq., a successful merchant of Northampton, Mass., gave his services as a delegate in the Army of the Cumberland, and returned about August 1st. Since that time he has visited twenty-five towns, and made over fifty addresses, twenty-eight of them in place of the regular Sabbath services.

* Charles Demond, Esq.

† Mr. Stuart.

E. T. Quimby, Esq., of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, Principal of the Appleton Academy, since a service of unusual length and success in the same army, has visited thirty towns, made sixty-nine addresses, forty of them in place of Sabbath services.

Rev. S. L. Bowler, of Orono, Maine, after valuable services in the Army of the Potomac, by addresses, correspondence, and visiting ministers' meetings, excited an interest in the work, which pervades a large portion of the state.

As a direct result of these voluntary and self-denying labors, more than three thousand dollars were collected, large amounts of stores, comfort-bags, &c., sent to the Commission, and many delegates induced to go, besides enlisting the permanent sympathy and aid of thousands of people. What these delegates have done on a large scale, nearly every delegate has done in his own town and vicinity, and thus the expenses of collecting agents have been saved.

Their energetic and devoted labors have contributed very largely to the results now presented in the accompanying statement. The Committee here relied much on printed circular appeals, addressed to the several churches of this part of the country, which have brought a liberal response. But, notwithstanding the foregoing active and widely-extended efforts, it is due to the citizens of Boston and its immediate vicinity to state, that an application, by telegram, from the Chairman of the Commission for aid, immediately after the battle of Gettysburg, which was made public on the bulletin of the Merchants' Exchange Reading Room, resulted in a contribution in money of over twenty thousand dollars in three days, and reached the sum of thirty-five thousand in *ten* days,—a response worthy of the generous sympathies of our fellow-citizens. A second appeal was subsequently made in the same place by Mr. Stuart personally in behalf of the Union prisoners in Richmond, which resulted in about five thousand dollars' contributions within a few days. Together, these contributions amounted to about *one-half of the entire sum* contributed during the last year through this Committee. From the frequent correspondence of delegates appointed here, many thrilling facts and incidents might be gathered; but, as they may not be more marked or interesting than those furnished by the letters of delegates from

other parts of the country, which will doubtless be published, we omit to elaborate our branch of the report by the record of such evidence of the special value of their labors on the field and in hospitals. In preference to enlarging this report by introducing details connected with the department of labor, we append a summary of facts* as being the most condensed, and perhaps useful form in which they can be presented.

We would tender our thanks to the army committees of various towns and cities throughout New England, whose zeal and energy have contributed largely to the success of our labors. The plan adopted by the army committee of St. Albans is worthy of mention. They systematically visit all the towns in the county of which St. Albans is the centre, hold meetings, distribute documents, and thus keep up the interest of the people in the work. Should every large town have a committee that would thus care for the country adjacent, there would be a great increase of contributors for the suffering men of the army.

We mention with gratitude the noble generosity of the railroads and steamboat lines in passing our delegates over their various roads and lines, and the great kindness of their officers in attending so patiently and promptly to our numerous requests. The secular and religious papers, also, have most materially assisted us by opening their columns to information and appeals in reference to our work.

In view of the encouraging record of the past year, the Committee again enter upon the duty assigned them, in the hope that, by more faithful service, under the blessing of God, still greater results may be accomplished, encouraged and stimulated also by the thought that they are thus permitted to participate in the labors of an institution which has already rendered such invaluable service to our country and its defenders.

For the Committee.

EDWARD S. TOBEY,
Chairman.

The names of the Committee are as follows:

E. S. TOBEY, *Chairman*,
JACOB SLEEPER, J. SULLIVAN WARREN,
JOS. STOREY, RUSSELL STURGIS, JR.

BOSTON, January 20, 1863.

* This will be found in connection with the General Summary.

PHILADELPHIA COMMITTEE.

Philadelphia Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,
Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: The Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia presents the following report for the year 1863:

The various measures before pursued for the benefit of soldiers in the hospitals and camps in and around the city, have been successfully continued. Meetings have been held, books, papers, and tracts distributed, as will appear from the statistical table presented. Members of the Association have gone as delegates of the Commission to the seat of war. Assistance has been rendered from time to time in the arrangement and conduct of meetings at a distance from the city, for the purpose of diffusing information about the work of the Commission and increasing its means of support and extension.

The *army meetings* have been continued on successive Sabbath evenings until now, at the close of the year, we have held the one hundred and fourteenth. The attendance at these meetings has been large, and the collections generous, amounting, in the aggregate during the year, to nine thousand three hundred and one dollars. Adding this to the amount reported the previous year, three thousand and thirty-one dollars, and the total amount is swelled to twelve thousand three hundred and forty-two dollars (besides large collections sent directly to the Commission), the voluntary offerings of the churches in the city, through the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, to the work of the United States Christian Commission.

The Association has accepted a work which has brought comfort already to the families of many brave men now absent from home, perilling their lives for the cause of our country, *the distribution of coal.*

The generous coal operators in the Schuylkill region kindly proposed to the chairman of the Commission to furnish coal for this purpose, if he would provide for its proper distribution. The

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company agreed to deliver it in Philadelphia without charge for transportation. To complete the chain, we undertook its proper distribution. About *three hundred tons* have already been received and bestowed upon the suffering families of our noble volunteers. This is a noble beginning. The supply is still coming. At the close of the winter, we hope to record the distribution of not less than two thousand tons.

A record of sick and wounded Pennsylvania soldiers was commenced at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association December 10, 1862. The Army Committee placed this important and laborious work in the hands of Joseph Parker, Esq., by whom the name of every soldier of this State who, having fallen under the power of disease or the infliction of wounds, and having reached either of the twenty-five hospitals of this district, have now an honorable mention. The date of admission, name, company, regiment, disease, and final disposition of each man, has been carefully noted.

The object of the record is twofold: 1st. That information might be communicated to friends and relatives of these soldiers whenever desired; 2d. That a monument might thus be erected to their *memory* and their *praise*, to be placed in the capitol at Harrisburg for future reference.

The first object had in view has been realized already. The applications made personally and by letter have been many, and the thanksgivings of anxious and bleeding hearts attest the value placed upon this undertaking. The number of names at present upon the record is over twenty-seven thousand (27,000). With what feelings of pride posterity will trace the names of their ancestors who suffered, bled, and died for constitutional law and universal freedom, can readily be imagined. The keeping of this record, however, has been but a part of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Parker to our noble volunteers. He being among the first to serve the Christian Commission in ministering to the temporal and spiritual necessities of these men in the *army*, has faithfully continued these labors in the hospitals. Testaments, tracts, and the other religious publications provided by the Christian Commission, have been numerously and wisely distributed.

Meetings for exhortation and prayer have also been established and maintained, with the aid of other brethren, where necessity seemed to demand it. With these services our soldiers uniformly express their gratification. *One incident in connection with these meetings:* Mr. Parker having proposed to hold a service at the Haddington Hospital, during one of his visits to that institution, the surgeon in charge approached a young soldier who had lost a leg, and requested him to give notice to the other men, most of whom had been equally unfortunate with himself. The soldier, with his face beaming with delight, secured his crutches and sprang to the work. He visited all the places about the hospital, and brought in one and another, until he had secured about thirty, *all cripples for life.* The meeting proved to be one of deep and solemn interest. At the close of the exercises, the soldier, in conversation with Mr. Parker, informed him, that during the few months he had been in the hospital, he had been engaged in making crutches at a carpenter's shop some half a mile distant, and in this way had laid up sixty dollars. "Do you not think this much better than to be lying about in idleness?" said the man. "I have made this for my family, standing on one leg." In addition he remarked, "I am a member of the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. Stuart, President of the United States Christian Commission, sent me, a short time since, a large size copy of the New Testament, which I value very highly."

The name of this man was Boardman. In this man we have at once a noble specimen of a Christian patriot, soldier, husband, and father; and for such men the nation may be proud, and must be prosperous.

H. N. Thissell,
Chairman Army Committee,
Phila. Y. M. C. A

Rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association,
Philadelphia, January 1st, 1864.

BALTIMORE COMMITTEE.

OFFICE OF THE MARYLAND COMMITTEE
OF THE UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION,
BALTIMORE, January 1, 1864

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
Chairman United States Christian Commission.

DEAR SIR: Our labors during the year have been performed in twenty-two localities, hospitals and camps. In these we have had employed three hundred delegates and other active co-laborers, who have ministered to the necessities of over seventy-five thousand soldiers. The necessities relieved were occasioned principally by the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. These battles, as it is well known, were of the most fierce and desperate character, and left upon the fields the thousands of sufferers enumerated, both of our own and the armies of the enemy. In every instance of battle our delegates were on hand, and rendered most necessary and efficient services. The hospitals of the vicinities of the battle-fields were filled alike with friends and enemies, and relief afforded to all as it was needed. The work performed was that of a true Christian philanthropy, and we are satisfied that it was approved and blessed by the Great Father of all. In the acknowledgments of rebel officers and others, we have had frequent assurances that the Christian work of doing good for evil has been accomplished by our Commission.

Hospital Services.

In the hospitals near the battle-fields, the delegates of the Commission engaged most earnestly in their work. While employed in the relief of the physical suffering of their charge, they were fully mindful of the necessities of the soul. They read the Scriptures and other religious books to the men, and conversed and prayed with them, encouraging them in every possible way to consider their safety, not only as it regarded the comforts of the present, but the realities of the future world. In their co-operation with the surgeons and attendants of the

hospitals and camps, our agents were enabled to render most efficient service. The record is upon thousands of grateful hearts, the gratitude of which has been expressed in unnumbered utterances of praise and blessing, and, in consideration of which, devout and faithful prayers have been offered to God on behalf of those who have performed the needed service.

Chaplains' Services.

As soon as the hospitals were prepared, they were well provided with religious services by clergymen and others, who volunteered for duty, and wrought in its performance most faithfully and effectually. It was not possible to provide officially for this service until hospitals of a more permanent character were erected, and the authorities operated in the selection of their agents of religion. In the confusion of battle, chaplains and surgeons were, in some instances, detached from their regiments, when, without loss of time, they commenced operations as opportunity afforded, and labored as diligently and as successfully as they could have done in their own proper associations. Two chaplains, who were in the service of the Committee, proceeded from point to point, rendering assistance in every possible form to the chaplains and surgeons of hospitals and regiments. Their services were invaluable to the various departments in which they were administered.

In the more permanent hospitals, the labors of the chaplains were rendered more systematic and regular, and they have, of course, been more productive of their fruits of benevolence and love. Apartments have been provided for public worship; libraries have been established, and provision made for the regular distribution and reading of tracts, religious newspapers and books. At the present time, the work of our hospitals is pursued in the most orderly and systematic manner. The chaplains are the heads of the religious department, and, from the reports that we receive from them and the visits we make to their premises, we learn how beautifully and successfully this labor of faith and love is fulfilling its mission. Every hospital has its chaplain, and our delegates are in the habit of making daily visits to

them and assisting them in the performance of their arduous and confining labors.

General Hospitals.

The services of our Committee have been extended to the general hospitals of Maryland. In these we have rendered service to thirty-five thousand men, ministering alike to their temporal and spiritual necessities. The general hospitals of our district as now existing and their chaplains are as follows:

Newton University, Baltimore,	Rev. Mr. Simpson.
McKim's, "	Rev. R. Spencer Vinton.
Patterson's Park, "	Rev. George A. Leakin.
Jarvis, "	Rev. F. W. Brauns.
West's, "	Rev. J. T. Van Barkalow.
National, "	Rev. T. J. Bowen.
Fort McHenry, "	Rev. A. A. Reese, D.D.
Navy Yard, Annapolis,	Rev. H. A. Henries.
St. John's, "	Rev. Mr. Hammond.
Camp Parole, near Annapolis,	Rev. Mr. Bent, Delegate C. C.
Annapolis Junction,	—— ——
Frederick,	Rev. B. H. Creever.
Cumberland,	—— ——
York,	Rev. Mr. Brown.
Point Lookout,	Rev. J. A. Spooner.
Fort Delaware,	—— ——

The above-named chaplains, with the exception of the Rev. Mr. Bent, have charge of their respective hospitals by appointment under the Government of the United States. Their services are regularly and statedly performed. They consist of daily visits through the wards; public services and preaching, prayer-meetings; experience meetings; distribution of tracts, religious books, religious newspapers, and reading to and conversing with the patients under their care.

Labors Beyond the District.

In times of necessity our chaplains and delegates have been directed to extend their labors beyond the limits of our own district, and all the members of the Committee have visited the

following hospitals and camps: Gettysburg, Hanover Junction, Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, Winchester, Charlestown, Fortress Monroe, and Alexandria. In all these localities the labors of the Commission have been performed by delegates and agents, and from letters received and public notices in the newspapers, we have been informed of valuable services that have been rendered.

Camp Parole.

This camp at one time possessed a most unenviable reputation, on account of the reckless characters and conduct of the men who were congregated upon its premises. In connection with several gentlemen and ladies of our vicinity, the Committee labored for several months in the effort to secure regular religious services, and such other ministrations as might operate in the reformation of the camp. For some time the labors were unsuccessfully expended, when a few heroic women were induced to undertake the dangerous and laborious task the field of labor imposed. They provided themselves with shelter by the erection of temporary apartments, and proceeded with their work. They were surprised at the respect with which they were received and treated by the men, and soon learned that there was the prospect of success for faithful and devoted labors. They wrought for months with encouraging effect, and their labor of reformation is still in progress. The camp is now under the efficient control of Colonel Root, by whose exertions it has been reduced to an excellent condition of order and propriety. The Rev. Mr. Hamilton, delegate of the Christian Commission, and for a time acting chaplain, succeeded in erecting a rude rustic chapel, which is composed of posts planted in the ground, unhewn cross timbers, and branches of trees. In this chapel, devout thanksgivings have been poured forth to God for his merciful intervention on their behalf, by some whose lips were seldom opened before in the acknowledgment of favor either to God or man. The Rev. Mr. Bent, one of our delegates, is now the acting chaplain of the camp. He is actively and energetically engaged in the performance of religious services. The labors of both Messrs. Hamilton and Bent have been greatly blessed. They have wrought successfully in securing God's favor in the conversion of a large number of the unfor-

tunate men who were placed under their care. They have established a library in the camp, in which are some very valuable books, which are kept in constant circulation among the men under the chaplain's supervision. Instances have come to our knowledge in which some of the most reckless characters of the camp were converted into the most order-loving and religiously devoted worshippers of the chapel. They are known in their habits of leaving the camp and seeking the solitude of the woods for prayer. The solitary worshipper has been surprised in his devotions by the approach of a comrade, who in a short time was succeeded by another and another, all in search of a secluded spot for prayer, when the little assembly thus formed has followed out the purpose of the men composing it by entering upon the services of religion in the most hearty and determined manner. The wilds have been rendered vocal with their prayers and songs of praise, and before the services have closed a large number of worshippers were in attendance and the most blessed results realized. In meetings thus accidentally or providentially ordered, mutual pledges have been made of faithful devotion to God's service, and the interchange of prayers promised by the friends on behalf of each other.

Camp Tyler.

The condition of Camp Tyler, in being the receptacle of recovered stragglers and deserters, was, on a limited scale, similar to that of Camp Parole. Under the discipline of General Tyler a reformation was effected which changed entirely the character of the camp. A part of the discipline consisted in religious services, supplied by the Christian Commission, and in the attendance upon the hospital of the camp of Mrs. Alph Hyatt and Mrs. G. S. Griffith. More ladies were in attendance every day, and the moral influence of their presence and conversation was sufficient to restrain the men from the outbreaks and violence which they were disposed to commit. Colonel Sangster, who had especial charge of the camp, enforced rigidly and kindly the orders of General Tyler, and was successful in securing the good behavior of his men, outside as well as inside the camp inclosure. Colonel Sangster frequently acknowledged his obligations to the ladies for their services, and declared that he

was more indebted to their presence and example than to anything else for his success.

Hanover Junction.

One of the busiest and most successful of the scenes of our labors in Maryland, was that which appeared in the establishment of a mission at Hanover Junction. All the wounded of both armies at the battle of Gettysburg, as they were able to endure transportation, were sent to the several hospitals of our district and to others in the Northern States. They all passed the Junction, where, in cars provided for the purpose, Mrs. Alph Hyatt, Mrs. Henry Stockbridge, Mrs. Gosnell, and other ladies, labored for several weeks in providing refreshments for the sufferers. By arrangement with the officer in charge of the department, the trains were stopped at the Junction, each containing from three hundred to eight hundred of the wounded, some of whom were very badly injured. To these the ladies ministered in the distribution of such hospital stores as were adapted to their condition. Thousands of gallons of lemonade, ginger-water, coffee and tea, with soft bread and biscuits, were distributed at this point, and many were the blessings that were invoked upon them for their kind intervention. Members of the Committee have been present and assisted in their benevolent work when large numbers were in transportation, and it required great activity to supply them all with the refreshments, which were abundantly provided for their use.

Other Points of Service.

At the corner of Pratt Street and Central Avenue, the depot of the Northern Central Railroad, and other points in Baltimore, the trains containing the wounded were stopped, while the ladies in attendance, assisted by their gentlemen friends, supplied refreshments to all on board. The scenes thus daily presented were of most interesting character. Citizens while passing along the streets were attracted, and waited in large numbers, to witness the process by which the hundreds of their disabled countrymen were refreshed in their transit from the battle-field to the hospital. As the attendants proceeded along the trains with

their baskets and buckets, the hands of the needy men were thrust forward, some holding out tin-cups and canteens, which they desired should be filled, and others for the receipt of soft bread and biscuit, sandwiched with sliced ham, tongue and preserves.

Order of the Hospitals.

The order of all the hospitals is good. The men who are convalescing live together in harmony, and seem to enjoy pleasure in each other's association. They amuse themselves in various ways, and seem like little communities of citizens, whose interest it is to assist each other and to show personal regard for each other's comforts and enjoyments. Under the directions of the chaplains, religious and literary exercises are conducted, and the best of feeling appears to prevail among the inmates of them all.

Ladies' Relief Associations.

Connected with every hospital is a ladies' relief association, to which is intrusted the management of the department through which the sick and suffering are afforded the attention they deserve and need, in the preparation of such articles of nourishing food and delicacies as are grateful to the afflicted. The presence and services of the ladies present a home appearance to the hospital, and induce a feeling of comfort and reliance which no other agency can supply. It is in the sacrifice of personal comfort and convenience that the ladies perform this much-needed and very desirable service. They are supplied from our warehouse with such articles as we can provide. The daily demand for stores has to this time been met by us, and we have reason to hope that we shall be able to continue the work as long as there may be need for it.

Appeals of Families.

Now that the number of patients in the hospitals is diminishing, a new feature of our Christian work appears in the appeals presented by the suffering families of those who are in the field doing service to their country. In large numbers the wives and children of the soldiers of our army appear before us; they are destitute and in a condition of need and suffering, and must be relieved. The ladies have associations especially for this

purpose, and we have received contributions of money and stores for their aid, which we have with much satisfaction appropriated to their use. The demand from this source must continue to increase, and large supplies are necessary in order to meet it. A kind and merciful Providence has heretofore wrought the relief in proportion to the emergency, and we entertain no doubt whatever that such will be the case in the future, however increased may be the necessities thus produced.

Christian Association.

Our Christian Association, which now consists of over seventy members, continues to perform its full measure of service to our cause. By these self-sacrificing gentlemen, all the hospitals and camps of our district are visited. They co-operate with chaplains in the performance of such services as are admissible, in the holding of prayer-meetings, in conversations with the sick and convalescing, and in the distribution of tracts, books, religious papers, &c. The meetings of this association are held monthly. They are of a most interesting character. The members are divided into committees, the chairman of each of which presents either a written or verbal report of his labors during the past month, and they counsel together in relation to the best methods of pursuing their work. In some instances, most interesting and encouraging details of events are made, producing the most pleasant feelings, and warming up the hearts of the laborers for future efforts in their work of love on behalf of suffering humanity.

The members of the association visit the families of the soldiers who are in the field, and minister to their spiritual and temporal necessities as opportunities are afforded. This body of colaborers with the Christian Commission has done great service to our cause. Many of the members are clergymen, and all of them are members of religious societies and professors of religion. They are all, therefore, capable of performing the work assigned them. The fruits of their labors are the testimonials of their usefulness. Those fruits are to be witnessed not only in the hospitals and camps, but in every part of our city where suffering humanity is calling for their presence and assistance.

Religious Meetings.

It were impossible for us to ascertain the number of meetings for religious purposes that have been held by our delegates and other colaborers. Every day and night these meetings take place, either in hospitals or camps, or in churches, school-houses and dwelling-houses of the city and its vicinity. The effects of these meetings are visible in the evil they are the means of overruling, and the good conduct and character they are inducing.

Public Meetings.

A public meeting was held at Light Street Methodist Episcopal Church, Baltimore, on the 30th of April, the fast day appointed by the President of the United States. A second public meeting took place on the 6th of August, the day of thanksgiving appointed by the President. This meeting was held in the Central Presbyterian Church, corner of Saratoga and Liberty Streets. A third meeting was held on the 26th of November, the last Thanksgiving day. This meeting took place in the Light Street Methodist Episcopal Church. All the meetings thus appointed were successful in their labors and results. The churches in which they were held were crowded to overflowing, and great interest was manifested in all their exercises. They were emphatically UNION PRAYER-MEETINGS, and we do not doubt that the great cause we have in hand of ministering to the relief of the suffering occasioned by the war was rendered more popular among our people, and more successful through their agency.

Relief for the Union Prisoners at Richmond.

Several hundred boxes of substantial stores have been sent from our warehouse to the Union prisoners at Richmond. We have been enabled, by the consent of the officers of the departments of both the army lines, to conduct correspondence with prisoners, from whom we have learned of their necessities and of the relief we have afforded them. Our stores have been received and acknowledged; while at the same time we have been informed of the failure of other efforts in a similar service. Our Christian flag is the Banner of the Cross. It would wave in its mission of hope and love over peaceful and prosperous nations;

but if men will rebel against authority, and resist each other to violence and blood, its white folds must be unfurled over the laborers that hasten to the relief of the stricken, and minister in the supply of the necessities alike of both body and soul.

While the Banner shall be respected, our work shall be prosperous. Should respect for it cease, deplorable must be the condition of barbarism and intolerance to which we must be reduced. May it ever float in its beauty above us, and may we, though all unworthy, ever share in the benefits of its protection.

Conclusion.

We may certainly say that, with confidence in view of the success of Christian enterprise, "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us." And we may trust with equal confidence to His merciful and beneficent providence for our future support. We doubt not that we shall be sustained, and that, as we need them, friends will be raised up to assist us. Heretofore, according to our necessities have been the supplies, and we feel assured that such will be the realization of the future. It is God's work, and He will direct and aid in its accomplishment. His is the gift of the will; His the gift of ability to work, and the success that crowns it. To Him be the glory.

Respectfully submitted.

J. N. McJilton,
Secretary of the Committee of Maryland.

From Rev. G. R. Bent.

Camp Parole, Maryland,
Near Annapolis, January 1st, 1864.

When I arrived at Camp Parole, I found the Rev. S. P. Merrill, a successful delegate of the United States Christian Commission from Carlton, Orleans County, N. Y. Brother Merrill had preceded me four days. Much interest had been excited among the men as a result of his labors; some had been reclaimed. Meetings were held on the Sabbath P. M. Bible class in the morning, prayer-meeting or preaching in the evening; also, prayer-meetings some three evenings in the week. However, everything seemed unsettled. We had only a small office and store-room in the officers' barracks.

Quarters were given us by Colonel Root, commanding the

post, who, by the way, as a Christian gentleman, has done all in his power to favor us in our work of love. Lieutenant Stevens, 5th Maine Volunteers—God bless the man—although not a professing Christian, has, with all the officers in the barracks, lent a helping hand. Now, we have quarters, five rooms, office, store-room, delegates' room, and two rooms for my family. Colonel Root gave the order, and the men went to work with goodwill to prepare our home. For a number of days I could give but a part of my time to the work by personal effort. This seems to be the secret of success in this camp, as in all others where I have labored.

The Change of Camp.—The old camp had the reputation of being filthy and undesirable, and I suppose justly so. But the sanitary condition of the camp has changed. *Now* the buildings are regular, look neat and clean, and are ample for all the men. The police guard keep the ground through the camp free from all filth. The streets, the pumps, the buildings, all look inviting. In fact Camp Parole, with its reforms, its kind and prompt officers, is a very desirable place. And as a result of the efforts put forth even in the past few weeks, the observing ones say the camp presents a different moral face.

The first meeting I attended, three men rose for prayer at its close. We at once decided to have meetings every evening in the week, and we found the numbers increase of those who desired salvation. Once as many as eleven came forward, and many young men who came here unconverted are brought to Christ, and backsliders are reclaimed from their wanderings, rejoicing as returned prodigals, while many are anxious and resolve to become Christians. Since the meetings commenced, scarcely a day or evening has passed that did not witness some interesting scene in our office. Men come after the evening meetings to be prayed for and instructed in the way of life.

Christmas Eve a man came to the office, named Fisher: his burden of sin was heavy; he could not leave till blessed. After instruction imparted and many earnest prayers offered, the man found peace. I never saw a more happy change. Truly he went on his way rejoicing,—all things had become new; he walked the room and clapped his hands, declaring all things praised God. And so with a young man from Massachusetts, named

Squires, of good education and fine social qualities. He was convicted, and remained for days seeking. But one evening, after meeting, in the office, he found peace of mind, and now rejoices in hope of the glory of God. How that mother's heart will rejoice, and the father look down from his heavenly home and minister to the strength and joy of the son's heart! There *is* joy in heaven when a sinner repenteth.

Our meetings (January 5th) still continue most interesting. Last evening three young men rose to ask our prayers, and this evening two. One young man, after meeting, told me he would be a Christian, and promised to pray before retiring. Weeping, he promised, and he will do it. A score of young men stood up and thanked God that they came to Camp Parole, to be brought under the influence of the Christian Commission.

A young man named Silverwood said, in making the second charge on the rebels at Vicksburg, in storming the works, where only thirty out of five hundred men got inside, "I knew if I was killed I should be lost, and I was a *good* Catholic, as my father was before me, and there," said he, "I promised God if He would spare me, I would serve Him; and I was spared, and came to Camp Parole to give my heart to Christ; and now I am happy, and will serve God as long as I live."

A Christian Association has been organized for mutual improvement, and to help each other in the service of God. Sixty-six members at the present time; twenty more want to join now. The enterprise has been productive of much good. We have a circulating library, which enables the men to pass away many lonely hours. I have heard nothing but eulogies on the United States Christian Commission. The records of eternity will reveal glorious results. With faith in our efforts and patience for our reward, we labor and wait.

We have a fine store-room, and have distributed in the month from it:

Scriptures, Testaments and Bibles,	152
Hymns and Psalms,	389
Soldiers' books,	2,680
Bound volumes,	10
Pages of tracts,	15,870

Papers, ...	2,356
Pamphlets, ...	9

One Bible class has been held, thirty-six letters written, and aid given to one hundred sick and wounded soldiers.

In the month of December, 1863, twelve meetings for preaching, thirty-seven for prayer, and six funeral services, were held.

The above has been a small part of our work. Personal effort has been greatly blessed, and much of it been put forth.

The suffering of our men while prisoners can never be written. S. Chatfield, Company E, 1st Mounted Rifles, New York, said he saw six poor fellows who were wasted by hunger and chilled with cold, for one dollar procure a small stick of wood, cut it in pieces and make a fire of it, and sit down to get a little heat. When it had gone out, one poor fellow leaned over the place where the fire had been; he put his face in his hands, and in the morning was found dead in that position. And men are buried there from a box in which their bodies are put, carried to the grave and rolled from it into the hole in the sand; the same boxes being used till worn out. All the religious reading distributed is from the North. The Christian Commission has the credit of sending books and papers to our prisoners. Many men who hear the Gospel here, say they have been deprived of such a blessing for months. One young man in the hospital, when asked if he would go to the chapel, gladly consented, saying he had not listened to preaching for two years. He listened, and was comforted and blessed, and so it has been.

Mr. Merrill writes: "We are at the place where all the paroled men come from their prison-life, which has been especially trying. Men come here so weak from starvation and inaction, owing to the great number crowded together in Richmond prisons, that if they stumble in walking they fall helpless to the ground, oftentimes cutting and bruising themselves severely, all from sheer exhaustion. The men usually arrive here destitute of clothing, more or less, as well as of money and strength. Large bodies move slowly, so that some days would naturally elapse before the men can be provided for with clothing and pay from the Government. Meantime, afflicted as many of them are with chronic diseases, they would sink from continued exposure.

Without money, too, they are unable to procure even the material for writing to their friends at home, who, if they knew, would gladly supply them. It was precisely this work your Commission was enabled to do at the late arrival of our paroled men. Every one received paper and envelopes; lead-pencils were cut up and given as far as they went. The men were urged to write home to tell the good news of their safety. Newspapers were distributed till they were fully supplied, and to these men, immured, as they had been, for from three months to a year, anything was news. Many of the men—indeed, I may say all of them—were covered with vermin, for they say "Belle Isle is as lively as an ant-hill with them." I distributed Castile soap in little bits to them, that it might go the farther, men the while holding their hands under the cakes to catch any grains that might fall. The few towels I had I distributed to those who said they would share with from five to ten.

Something like thirty-five of these men were brought to Camp Parole Hospital, and, through the agency of the Christian Commission, are now enjoying the luxury of warm woollen shirts, which the surgeons say are better for them than medicines, to recruit their wasted energies. The men are high in praise of our good work, and say they shall thank the Commission all their lives for the aid, so precious, because so timely.

The Government needs men to finish up the war, and has its officers to recruit men for the service. It has its commissary and quartermaster departments. Its hospitals afford comfort to the sick and wounded men, patriots. The Sanitary Commission has poured its wealth into the arms of the Government through its agents at the various points of distribution. In the development of our resources the world stands astonished. The strong arm of the Government has new elements of strength added constantly, and one not insignificant is the wealth and energy of the United States Christian Commission. We not only give comfort to all who call, but we go out into the highways and hedges, and compel men to come in. The delegates encourage men to re-enlist. Seven or eight men told me yesterday that the Commission was such a source of pleasure that scores and hundreds would re-enlist now who would not have thought of it before having such comfort brought to them. Ten more told me this

morning that they know God has blessed the Commission all through the army in doing great good. Here are the voices of praise from Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina; from the thousands of homes made glad by your efforts, hospitals made desirable by your delegates, and the famishing sons of the North and South fed by your bounty.

Parole Camp is now rejoicing in these influences. But the end will come. Peace must follow. This whole generation will pass away. The silence of ages may succeed. But the stillness will be broken at last by the archangel's trumpet. Then, when the long line of patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and just men made perfect, shall present themselves to hear from the Master the glad welcome, "Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord," prominent amongst them will appear the officers and delegates of the Christian Commission.

GILBERT R. BENT,
Agent for United States Christian Commission.

Thus Parole Camp, though near Annapolis, and intimately connected with the Annapolis agency, has been provided for by a distinct arrangement, with Rev. G. R. Bent in charge.

The Annapolis Agency.

Annapolis by itself is a large field, abundant in work and peculiar in interest. Its immense national Naval School establishment,—professors' houses, offices, rooms, chapel, and all,—is one vast hospital, with cots for three thousand pupils in the school of patience and suffering for the sake of the nation. Its college,—St. John's,—also devoted to the same purpose of new national education, as a school for martyr-patriots; and its College Green Barracks, a receiving camp, where frequently twelve hundred men at a time have been quartered. These, if there was nothing about them different from other hospitals and barracks of similar extent, would afford work to enlist the hearts and hands of the generous and strong.

To these all, however, must be added one feature far above the ordinary plane of interest in hospitals and barracks. An-

napolis is the landing-place of all our paroled men from the prisons of Richmond. College Green Barracks is the receiving camp. Here they come direct from Libby, Castle Thunder, the Tobacco Warehouses, and Belle Island, in filth and rags, and worse. The Government has ample arrangements for washing, purifying, clothing anew, and appeasing the ravenous appetite first of all when they land.

Then, however, home is remembered afresh, and must be apprised of the happy release by letter; and for this the stationary and services if need be of the delegate of the Christian Commission are in especial demand. The mental appetite, released from the long prison-famine, craves something to read, calling again upon the Commission for supply. And religious privileges, all the more precious by reason of many months' utter deprivation, are welcomed and sought as only such men can welcome and seek them.

Those who are not well enough to be sent out to Camp Parole, are sent into the hospitals for the benefit of medical treatment and kind nursing, where they again are in position to receive such comforts—furnished by the Commission—from the hands of the ladies, as the surgeons advise. Shut out from all the relief and comfort we would gladly have sent to them, if possible, in prison, the only satisfaction we can have is that of meeting their wants instantly and fully when they are released.

To meet more perfectly the wants of Annapolis, at the solicitation of the excellent surgeon in charge, Dr. Vanderkieft, last autumn, Rev. I. O. Sloan, as soon as released from Gettysburg and sufficiently recovered from exhaustion, was placed in charge, as will be seen by his own appended report.

Through all the preceding months of the year, delegates had been sent from time to time to aid Chaplain Henries in his immense parish,—the Naval School Hospital,—and also Chaplain Hammond, of St. John's College Hospital, and to do what they could in College Green Barracks.

Supplies were sent to the noble ladies of Annapolis, Mrs. Governor Bradford, Mrs. Judge Cochrane, and their associates, to aid them in their unwearied efforts to relieve and restore to health the wounded from the battle-fields, and the sufferers from Richmond.

Before war times, and before the Naval School was turned into a hospital, while it yet flourished in this its ancient seat on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay as a school for the navy, it had a chapel,—in architecture a commodious church,—ornamented in front with imposing columns. But the sad necessities of war soon stripped it bare as a barn for hospital purposes; and bad taste, not to say anything worse, degraded it to a pest-house. The chaplain, however, obtained its restoration, and renovated it with whitewash and paint. To furnish it anew he applied to the Christian Commission, and through its influence enlisted Miss O'Neil and her friends in Philadelphia, who, at several hundred dollars expense, supplied settees and cushions for the chapel, a sofa for the pulpit, and everything complete. Then when Christmas approached, a fine Christmas dinner for the hundreds of men in the hospital was supplied by the liberality of Mr. Orne, of Philadelphia; the Patriot Daughters of Lancaster, Pa.; the Ladies' Loyal League of Portland, Conn., and other generous friends of the soldier, largely through the active agency of Rev. Mr. Sloan.

These and many other like things, if added, would greatly swell the various amounts given in the figures of our work.

The following letter from *Rev. I. O. Sloan* will give some idea of the work during the latter months of the year:

ANNAPOLIS, MD., January 1st, 1864.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.

In October last, now a little more than two months, I arrived at Annapolis, and engaged in the work of the Christian Commission. At this place all paroled and exchanged prisoners are received from Richmond. The men on their arrival are sent, according to their condition, to the several places established here for their accommodation and medical treatment by the Government. The sick and wounded are received into the hospitals. At Annapolis there are two: Division Hospital No. 1, occupying the buildings of the Naval School. This is in charge of Surgeon B. A. Vanderkieft. And Division Hospital No. 2, at St. John's College, in charge of Surgeon G. B. Parker. Those who are well are received, first to be supplied with clothing, at College Green Barracks, and then at Camp Parole. At each of these points some aid has been rendered by the Christian Commission. But the labor of the delegates has chiefly been

directed to Camp Parole, and the Naval School Hospital, these places having by far the largest number of men. My time has been spent almost entirely at the Naval School Hospital. I have occasionally visited the other places, and supplied them with stores.

I have found constant work at this post, but, like all my endeavors to relieve and comfort the suffering among those fighting to crush this wicked rebellion, it has afforded pleasure and an ever-present reward. We acknowledge the receipt of many boxes of supplies,—in all, I think, over one hundred and fifty, large and small. The contents embraced almost every variety of gifts for the comfort of our suffering men.

The prompt and liberal response to our calls for aid upon the Commission, on the arrival of our emaciated and starved comrades from Richmond, has convinced all among us, as well as elicited the praise of all, that our noble organization is not wanting in earnest effort and ability to relieve the wants of our soldiers at any and every point. Several boat-loads of our prisoners from Richmond have arrived since I have been here. At each arrival, I have been on the boat and assisted in their removal. October 29th, one hundred and eighty arrived; of this number several were dead when the boat reached the wharf. We need not describe the condition of these men. It has been sufficiently noted in the papers; and some may be incredulous of all that has been written about the appearance and condition of those who arrived at this date, and of the succeeding arrival, on the 18th of November. But the accounts scarcely picture the reality. Very many have gone to the grave. The cause can be attributed to nothing else but *starvation.* Poor boys! Noble young men many of them! We have wept at the sight. And we have thanked God, over and over again, that we have such brave, patriotic, noble men in our land! Their cheerfulness surprises us. There is no complaining,—no regret that they came to the army. Even where men are without limbs, having lost them in battle, the expression of all is, "I wish I was able to be in my regiment." With such "boys" who will be disheartened about the result of this contest? In the strength of God, we shall conquer this rebellion. We have never yet doubted in regard to the final issue. I find in my note-book

many incidents of touching interest, gathered while visiting through the different wards. It would make my report too lengthy to give you all I have noted down. The heart knoweth its own bitterness. A stranger to any crushing sorrow occasioned by the loss of sons, husbands and brothers in this war, can scarcely enter into the feelings of those who have been thus sorely bereaved. It is when affliction invades the home-circle, and each member feels that a tie is broken, and a beloved relative has gone, never to come again on earth, with his familiar voice and presence, to cheer and brighten that home, that we can appreciate and understand the grief of others. Yesterday, I stood by the side of a young man from Espyville, Crawford County, Pa., who was rapidly nearing the grave. He was one of the starved ones that came from Richmond. I had just sent a telegram to his father, informing him of his low condition, and saying, at his son's request, to come on immediately. A kind lady from Boston, Miss Clark, who came to do what she could to relieve the sufferings of the patients, was present, anxious to prolong life, and seeking to supply the place of a mother or sister. Unexpectedly his father came into the room. He had come expecting to find him able to go home. With this in view, he had applied and obtained the grant of a furlough for him. But the heart was stricken and overwhelmed with grief and disappointment, when he came to the couch of his suffering, dying boy. He came, not as he fondly hoped, to take him home, full of life and recovered health, but to return with only the lifeless remains. He died last night. But there was consolation to the father in his death. Jesus was the hope and comfort of that much-loved son in the hour of death. The father felt that his boy,—his youngest,—was at rest, and that beyond the shores of time he should see him again. Now, to the believer, hard as it is, in all this terrible war, to lose friends, what a consolation to know, when sacrificed on the altar of their country, they have gone to the bright realms of eternal peace! Life is short. But life has its duties, and none, next to those we owe to God, are more pressing and binding on us than loyalty and sacrifices for our country. And while we perform these, let us never forget that our life beyond time ends not, and our highest welfare and happiness centres there. The hundreds of

noble young men,—brothers and sons,—who have fallen on the battle-field, or in the hospitals, and whose loss has cast a gloom over many a happy household, if they have died in the Christian's faith, they are not lost. Though suddenly cut off, they have only given up this short, weary, changing life, for a bright, peaceful immortality! Viewing death in this light, we were not surprised to hear the father of him whose case we have described, say, "I would rather be going home with the cold, inanimate body of my son, than to see him as I have seen some since I have been here,—reeling and tossing under the influence of liquor, and pouring out horrid oaths." And why? Because it would be but a little while before father and son would meet again on the banks of eternal life. And there is no parting there.

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE.

Report of the Washington Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

THIS city has been the centre from which has gone forth a stream of healing influences. The delegates, on their way to and from the army, spend a few days here; and when broken down by labor in the field, return for a few days' rest, which, however, are usually spent in doing good among the numerous hospitals in and around the city. In this way a great amount of labor has been performed, of which no record has been kept, and no tabular statement could give an adequate idea of it.

The rooms so kindly and freely granted by the Young Men's Christian Association were vacated on the 1st of October, the owner compelling the Association to leave.

A great difficulty was experienced in procuring suitable rooms for the use of the Commission, and the best that could be done was to rent a dwelling-house, which answers admirably for an office and rooms for the delegates, and which has sometimes accommodated fifteen men at once.

A cheap but ample warehouse was built alongside, and thus our wants were met and supplied.

There has been very cordial co-operation between the mission-

ary of the Young Men's Christian Association and the delegates, in supplying the local field, a sketch of which has been prepared by the Rev. O. P. Pitcher, the missionary.

We are now maturing plans for the more perfect development of this most interesting field, by securing a ministerial or lay brother to take charge of each encampment, who will report monthly. Already several points are thus supplied. Rev. Dr. Tustin has charge of one lot of barracks, where he preaches to the men, distributes reading matter, visits the sick, supplies their wants, and does them all the good he can. Rev. A. Eberlin, a young Lutheran, has charge of another, and so on. The hospitals, twenty-two in number, are well supplied with chaplains, who get their regular supplies of reading matter from the Commission, and faithfully attend to its distribution. As a class, our chaplains are worthy of all confidence, and any aid in our power is most cheerfully rendered them. The regular hospitals are so well supplied with all reasonable comforts, that very little is required by them; but what little is required is furnished through a reliable channel. The front and outside hospitals need and receive most.

Many of the men composing the Invalid Corps have required extra under-clothing, which has always been furnished when we were satisfied of the merits of the case.

Camp Convalescent.

This camp, as its name implies, is the place where disabled men are gathered and cared for during the period of their convalescence.

As soon as they get strong enough to leave their hospitals, they are brought here to regain a state of health that will enable them to join their regiments. It may be called "Camp Convalescent" in the highest sense and best meaning of that term, for thousands of soldiers are here found convalescent in soul as well as in body.

"This very spot," said a soldier the other day, "which used to be called 'Camp Misery,' has been to me 'Camp Paradise.' for He that loved me and gave himself for me, hath 'put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God.'"

A wonderful work of grace has been in progress at this camp throughout the entire year. More than one thousand men, at the lowest estimate—some well informed say over four thousand—have here been renewed in heart and life during the year just closed.

Chapel Enlargements.

At the beginning of the year, our chapel in this place was a canvas tent; a large one, indeed, but not large enough for the congregation that daily crowded within and around its elastic walls. In the month of April last this gave place to a substantial wooden structure, with sittings for some five hundred men, erected by the soldiers from materials furnished by the Christian Commission.

In a little time this was filled uncomfortably full, and more room was called for. "*Church extension! Church extension!*" cried the boys. "Give us at least a place to stand, that we may hear the word of the Lord." The chapel was then enlarged on three sides, and made capable of holding one thousand persons. The increase in attendance has well-nigh kept pace with the increase in chapel accommodation.

Chapel Services.

These are regularly and promptly observed, in the following order:

(1.) A prayer-meeting every morning, at 9 o'clock.

(2.) A Bible class every afternoon, Sundays excepted, at 2 o'clock.

(3.) Preaching, followed by a season of prayer, every evening, except those of Wednesday and Saturday.

(4.) A temperance meeting, which, for several months, has received an average of fifty names per week for the pledge, every Wednesday evening.

(5.) A conference meeting, on the business men's plan, in which more than one hundred often take part in succession every Saturday evening.

(6.) Preaching three times on the Sabbath, the third service followed by a season of prayer.

Besides these chapel services, a regular ministration is also had in the hospital and in the barracks.

Our library is not adequate to the demand, although from fifty to seventy-five volumes a day are loaned out.

Camp Stoneman.

This is situated on the eastern side of the Potomac, about six miles from Washington. The number of men found at this camp varies from five thousand to nine thousand.

It is a camp for cavalry, and necessarily covers a large area, tents and barracks for the men, stables for the horses, forage stores, parade grounds; all these taken together require ample space.

The station of the Commission at this camp like the camp itself, is comparatively new. The first chapel tent erected upon this ground, was raised in October last.

Since that time, from three to six delegates have labored here with earnestness and fidelity, and have been greatly encouraged in seeing the immediate fruits of their labors. Not less than two hundred conversions are believed to have taken place here during the months of November and December.

Alexandria.

Through the kindness and consideration of the military authorities in Alexandria, greatly increased facilities are now afforded for our work in that city. The well-known "Sumter House" on Fairfax Street had become infamous, and began to be called "a den of iniquity." There was held the midnight revel. There was seen the zigzag stagger of the man who had tarried too long at the wine. There was heard the hollow rattling laugh of the strange woman. The corruption grew worse, and became intolerable. Then came the prompt action of martial law, confiscating the house and scattering its contents. Next came the cleansing, painting, carpeting, and then the occupancy by the delegates, and religious publications of the Christian Commission. Religious meetings, several times a week, are now held at this house, and the sweet voices of prayer and praise are heard issuing from the place where but a little time ago was heard the harsh jargon of rioting and excess.

Take this as an illustrative case. It aptly indicates the transforming influence of the Gospel of Christ upon the hearts of soldiers in that city. At a prayer-meeting held at the "Sumter House" a short time since, a soldier arose and said, "You see what a change has been made in this house! That shows what God has done for my soul. It was once a nest of corruption. To-night it is filled with love, joy, and praise."

Our field of labor at Alexandria is one that promises an abundant harvest. "The Soldiers' Rest," "The Teamsters' Park," "The Ambulance Stand," "The Slave Pen," "Three Divisions of Hospitals," "Detached Regiments," "Garrisons of Neighboring Forts,"—all these are places of great and growing interest to the Christian delegates who visit them, carrying the word of God, both in their hearts and in their hands.

Point Lookout, Md.,

Is a place of considerable interest as a field of missionary labor. Here is found the "Hammond General Hospital." Here are several regiments of infantry, and a force of cavalry. Here is a large prison, containing from seven thousand to ten thousand rebel prisoners.

Our delegates have labored here but a small portion of the time during the past year, but brief as has been the period of their services, it was long enough to give them a glad assurance that their work was highly appreciated and abundantly productive.

A delegate in that place writes thus: "We preached in the chapel, we preached in the hospital, and we preached in the prison. We preached to our own men and we preached to the rebels, and wherever we went the dullest eyes brightened and welcomed our coming." "Conversions every day," writes another delegate.

The Gospel seems to have been effective upon the prisoners, as well as those that were free, and many a rebel who entered the prison a scoffer, has become a man of prayer.

The Defences of Washington.

The forts and batteries which encircle the city of Washington are garrisoned by regiments which have but few chaplains con-

nected with them. Many of these garrisons send every week to our office in Washington, and obtain a supply of religious weekly papers. Our delegates have visited all these forts during the last two months, have held religious services in most of them, and have distributed wholesome reading matter in all of them.

City Barracks, Teamsters' Parks, &c.

Upon the borders of the city, within the line of defences, are numerous barracks for soldiers, ambulance stands, teamsters' parks, &c., which contain an aggregate of some fifteen thousand men. At several of these points our delegates hold religious services regularly every Sabbath. "God bless the Christian Commission!" is heard often at all these points, "and you too," is sometimes added as our brethren bring them relief and comfort both for the body and the soul.

Report of Rev. O. P. Pitcher, City Missionary of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Recognized at the first meeting of the Commission as the proper local development of its spirit and practical working, and since heartily co-operating with the U. S. Christian Commission.

The great mission field which has been opened to Christian effort at the Nation's Capitol since the commencement of the war, is one well calculated to arouse the zeal of the church, and call forth the most faithful and persevering exertions to bring the means of grace to the multitudes of soldiers and quartermaster's men, who are thronging the city and its suburbs.

There are twenty-two general hospitals in this military department, located mostly in Washington and Alexandria, containing about fourteen thousand beds, now about half filled, and although these are supplied with Government chaplains, yet when great numbers of sick and wounded have been brought suddenly to these hospitals, there has been great opportunity for the co-operation of the Christian Commission and other benevolent agencies with the chaplains, in ministering to the sufferers.

There is a much larger number of small hospitals, camp and regimental, in and around the city, many of which, with the regiments and various bodies of troops to which they belong, are

without chaplains. There are not less than about ten thousand of this class alone. Among these the artillery in the forts, city guards of volunteer cavalry and infantry, the Invalid Corps, the engineers, the detachments, and the great depot of field artillery, called Camp Barry, interesting services have been held, both by the delegates of the Commission, and the city missionary.

There are usually lying at the navy-yard from five to ten gunboats, tugs, dispatch-boats, and transports, with crews varying from ten to one hundred men each. These are constantly changing, thus, during the year, furnishing extensive opportunity for missionary labor.

The Central Guard-house in Washington furnishes, if not so pleasant, yet an important field of labor for the philanthropist and the Christian. The officer in charge reports that during the year ending January 1, 1864, there have been committed:

For being absent without a pass, ...	6,988
For drunkenness, ...	1,489
For desertion, ...	925
For miscellaneous charges, ...	2,062
Total, ...	11,464

The soldiers, who constitute the greater part of the prisoners, are congregated in what may be termed the *open prison*, a large room on the second floor, about thirty or forty feet square. Here, in this room, the Gospel may be preached to from fifty to one hundred and fifty soldiers at almost any hour. Citizens, pickpockets, and various criminals, are confined in cells in the rear.

Forest Hall Prison, in Georgetown, constitutes another important branch of this great mission field. This prison is used for the confinement of *deserters*, of whom there were committed in October fifteen hundred, in November one thousand, and in December (1863) about six hundred. A part of this large number for October, however, were men who had returned from the fortifications, and not newly committed.

These did not generally appear to be ill-disposed men; but about sixty per cent. were those who had gone home on furlough,

sick, and being careless about reporting at the expiration of their time, knowing they would be marked as deserters, continued their absence. Here, as well as at the Central Guard-house, many services have been held, and much reading distributed.

At the Old Capitol and Carroll Prisons, on Capitol Hill, there are usually confined as prisoners of war, and disloyal or secesh citizens, about one thousand men. There is a hospital in the Old Capitol, where about twenty or thirty patients are usually under treatment. Standing permission is given the missionary of the Young Men's Christian Association, by General Martindale, to hold religious services, and to distribute Bibles and Testaments, and other religious reading, among the prisoners.

The Soldiers' Retreat, near the Baltimore depot, consists of four large barracks, capable of accommodating from three thousand to four thousand men, besides an extensive eating-hall, where at least six hundred men can dine at once. This may be considered as a great military hotel, with the exception of some luxuries, where soldiers coming to or going from the army, or when being transported from one point in the army to another, and where convalescents going from the various hospitals to Convalescent Camp, halt for a night to rest and refresh themselves; sometimes, however, stopping but a few hours, and at other times, perhaps, two or three days, before being ordered away. The entire number stopping at the Rest during the year 1863 was 202,442 men, of whom more than 36,000 were convalescents. About 37,000 were homeward bound, and more than 86,000 were going to the field. Here, almost every evening in the year, a meeting can be held, with from fifty to five hundred or a thousand men, many of whom are exceedingly glad to hear the Gospel preached, and to receive Testaments and other reading.

Several most interesting cases of awakening and conversion have occurred at this place, as reported by the missionary of the Association, one or two of which may be mentioned. One evening, in the latter part of 1862, after a religious address and exhortation, a soldier of the one hundred and seventy-seventh Pennsylvania came to the missionary, threw his arms around his neck, and, weeping like a child, begged to be baptized. The missionary, on inquiring into his condition, learned that this soldier and his wife, on parting, had covenanted together to serve God

and unite with his people; but he had not till then taken up his cross openly to follow Christ. He had not experienced religion, but was most anxious to obtain it. Some praying soldiers in the regiment were found. Prayer was offered, repentance unto life was given, and peace received. By this time others became interested, and when they were exhorted to flee from the wrath to come, and enlist with this, their comrade, in the army of the Lord, two or three others came to the altar for prayers, resolving to live a different life. Holy baptism was administered to this young Christian soldier, and he went on his way rejoicing.

Months after this, when this regiment was stopping again at the Rest, this soldier recognized the missionary, came to him, and reminded him of the exercises at that place the year before, and said he was still striving to be faithful; that one of those who sought the Saviour at the same time had died in hospital at the front, but he thought he had gone safely, as it was his custom to pray night and morning.

The Quartermaster's men alone remain to be mentioned, not, however, the least interesting.

Of these, there are about ten thousand in the city of Washington alone, without a chaplain, or any church in particular, to look after their spiritual wants. About three thousand of these army auxiliaries are teamsters, encamped in the outskirts of the city, one camp alone containing from one thousand to twelve hundred men, with stables for all their horses, and tents and huts, or shanties, for themselves. In one of the large mess-houses at this point, which will comfortably seat three hundred men, the missionary holds regular Sabbath services, large numbers attending, the superintendent himself joining in the congregation, and co-operating heartily in sustaining the meetings. A more attentive congregation cannot be found, nearly every man kneeling in the time of prayer.

In another part of the suburbs is a camp of from two hundred to three hundred ambulance-drivers, where the missionary for several months first held religious services; and when his attention was called to the more pressing demands of the Dismounted Camp, the meetings were continued under the auspices of the Christian Commission.

About a thousand of the Quartermaster's men are mechanics,

wheelwrights, blacksmiths, carpenters, &c., having large mess-houses, within a few yards of each other, on the corners of F, G, and Twenty-first Streets. Formerly, the missionary used to hold the meetings in these different mess-houses by rotation; now they are held regularly in the carpenters' mess-room. This will seat about three hundred men, is comfortably warmed, and brilliantly lighted with gas for evening service. Here some of the mechanics often take part in the social meetings, and the gracious presence of the Master is frequently manifested among them. Souls have been converted and reclaimed here.

The balance, principally in the Quartermaster's department, is composed of hostlers, of whom there are over thirteen hundred, laborers, of whom there are also more than thirteen hundred, watchmen, cooks, saddlers, messengers, wagon-masters, &c. &c., with whom it is not always convenient to hold service. There are also some two hundred or three hundred employed in the Government bakery, among whom meetings have been held. They are largely Germans.

The Quartermaster's Hospital is an important institution in this department. This is supported by a small percentage on the wages of the entire class, about one per cent. The number of sick, wounded, and injured by various accidents, is usually about one hundred. The hospital has been removed from the small buildings on Seventeenth Street to the more commodious quarters of a vacated Government hospital, called St. Aloysius. This has been regularly visited both by the missionary and the delegates of the Commission. Here the various precious fruits of the Gospel have been witnessed from week to week.

It would be desirable to speak more particularly of the interesting meetings now being held in the camp of the Fourteenth New Hampshire Regiment of guards, and at Camp Barry, a large artillery camp of instruction, where there are twelve or more batteries, numbering over twelve hundred men; at the Mission Chapel, also, built by the Young Men's Christian Association, where the Ninth Regiment of the Invalid Corps, on guard duty, are regularly worshipping, and at other places, especially at the forts; but the length to which this report has already grown forbids it.

To the great credit of superintendents and commanding officers, it should be recorded that the kindest disposition to assist and co-operate in opening and preparing the way for religious services, and the distribution of reading among their men, has generally been manifested.

There seems, if possible, a more urgent necessity for putting forth vigorous Christian efforts in behalf of these multitudes about the city, than for the troops in the field. Here these men are not only away from the restraining influences of church and home, but they are actually exposed to temptations and vices of the most perilous kind. It is said that thousands of disreputable females infest the capital. Added to all this, the city is filled with drinking and gambling saloons, besides some half dozen theatres, exerting all their ingenuity to draw men down the maelstrom of vice and iniquity, which are but gilded passages to the region of final despair.

The principal counteracting influence upon these thousands by a general organized missionary agency, it is believed, is exerted by the United States Christian Commission and the Young Men's Christian Association of the city.

From the want of statistics, it is impossible to report the exact number of meetings held or distributions made by the delegates in and about the city. It is known, however, that they have performed much labor in cordial co-operation with the city missionary, and under the direction of the army committee and agent of the Commission visiting the forts, prisons, guards, quartermaster's men, &c. &c.

The following statistics, copied from the "First Annual Report," made November 16, 1863, by the missionary of the Young Men's Christian Association, may give some idea, so far as figures can show, of the work of the Association in this vast mission field.

The whole amount of distributions for the year has been as follows: English Testaments, 16,497; German Testaments, 4303; French, 19; Spanish, 1; Danish, 1; English Bibles, 25; making a total of 20,846 copies of the Holy Scriptures. Papers, mostly religious, 68,657; soldiers' hymn-books, 7840; soldiers' books, 6900; pamphlets, 634; pages of tracts, 1,642,382.

Number of religious services held, at which the greater part of this reading has been distributed, 618; number of those who have given evidence of conversion, of being reclaimed, and of desiring religion, about 100 souls. Miles travelled, 2421.

I must not close this report without acknowledging my great indebtedness to the Government for furnishing ambulance and driver, and other means of transportation where the condition of the public service would permit, to the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company, for pass granted for the season; to the American Bible Society for abundant supplies of the Holy Scriptures; to the New York and Boston Tract Societies, and especially to the United States Christian Commission, for large stores of valuable reading; but, above all, to the blessing of God, who alone can give efficiency to the instrumentalities employed, and to whom be all the glory.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. P. PITCHER,
Missionary Young Men's Christian Association.

Four Months in Camp Convalescent. By Rev. C. P. Lyford.

No more important field has been occupied by the Christian Commission than this camp. The large number of men thrown together here—at first ranging from fifteen to twenty thousand, though the number was considerably reduced after the removal of the camp from its old to its new location—the character of the men, convalescents, paroled prisoners, stragglers, &c., from and constantly going to every regiment in the service, yet remaining long enough to receive greater benefit by successive influences and labors; their actual condition, which at first was most deplorable,—these, with many other circumstances, rendered it one of the most inviting and promising fields for missionary and benevolent enterprise that has been reached by this organization. The suffering relieved and the amount of good done by the delegates, previous to the arrival of the permanent agent, will never be fully known till the "day of eternity;" but it was immense.

On the 18th of March, 1863, the permanent agent arrived in the camp with his wife, and immediately entered upon his duties. Religious services were held in the chapel tent, which

was found to be altogether too small to accommodate the crowds that were disposed to attend. The building of the chapel itself was soon commenced, and in a few weeks completed. Though it would contain many hundreds, it was yet too small, and after it had been packed to its utmost capacity, the men would still gather around the doors and windows, as long as they could get within hearing to listen to the word of life. As soon as the dry summer weather came on, the preaching service was held in the open air, seats being arranged in the beautiful pine grove around the chapel, and here thousands heard the Gospel daily. When autumn came again, the chapel had been enlarged so as to accommodate from ten to twelve hundred men.

We shall not be able to state anything like the exact amount of labor performed during our four months' stay in this delightful place. Three meetings were held every day, *without exception;* prayer-meeting in the morning, inquiry or class meeting in the afternoon, and preaching every evening except Saturday, when a general experience-meeting was substituted.

This does not include the services that were constantly held in the hospital during the week and on the Sabbath; and in addition to it all was the distribution of stores and immense quantities of reading matter, personal conversation and prayer with men in the barracks and hospital, burial of the dead, Bible classes, temperance meetings, &c. &c. Had it not been that I was assisted by so many and such excellent delegates, my feeble health would have failed long before it did. THE FRUITS of this work must also remain in great part unknown till "angels shout the harvest home;" and yet many of these fruits appeared to cheer and encourage us. We ever felt, as did also the men, that at each meeting some were hearing the Gospel that would never hear it again; that some were going direct from *that* meeting to the eternal world, and a great solemnity always pervaded our congregations. The first meeting that we held, four men arose for prayers; the next, ten; and then the number rapidly increased; and while there, we do not know that a single day passed without MANY happy conversions to God. The number of *earnest, deeply penitent* seekers ranged all the way from five to one hundred and twenty-five *every night*, with a good proportion converted daily. But how many carried their convictions

with them, and subsequently found Jesus; how many dying on the field of battle remembered how at Camp Convalescent they had been pointed to Christ, and *then* "looked and lived," can never be known in this life. The most interesting cases were constantly occurring. Infidels were converted; drunkards were saved; backsliders were reclaimed; husbands, whose wives were praying for their salvation, sent home the glad tidings that at last they were ready to join them in Christian life. The heart of many an anxious mother was made joyful by the news that her dear son, who was lost, had been found; who was dead, had been made alive. The men constantly going to their regiments, and to different parts of the country, carried the fire with them, and other revival flames were kindled, and throughout the whole land the results of this glorious work appear.

I wish here to add, that in passing through Pennsylvania, in all the large towns where portions of the Invalid Corps are stationed, men have hailed me on the streets, or have come to me at the close of the meetings, who had been converted at Camp Convalescent, and *who were living faithful, consistent Christian lives.* In addition to the spiritual work, the naked were clothed, the hungry fed, the sick and wounded were ministered unto. Many a poor fellow was helped out of his difficulties, correspondence was carried on for the men with their families, and communication was kept up with the loved ones at home.

I only regret that my health would not permit me to remain in this place, which by the grace of God and the transforming power of the Gospel had been rendered so heavenly in its character and enjoyments.

Sweet will be the memory of it in a dying hour, and through eternity I shall praise God for my sojourn there, which with Prof. Barrowes, who was with me one month, I can pronounce "the sunniest part of my life."

HARRISBURG COMMITTEE.

HARRISBURG, January 1st, 1864

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.

DEAR BROTHER: The annual report of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of this city, auxiliary to the Central Committee, is a very unsatisfactory one, owing mainly to the fact that no record has been kept of a large amount of the labors performed. During the entire year, we have been permitted to co-operate with a large band of noble and self-denying women, whose attentions to the sick and wounded in our several hospitals, and to the wounded who were passing through our city to hospitals at New York, Philadelphia, and elsewhere, cannot be too highly commended. A large part of the supplies distributed to the hospitals by the committee was intrusted to them, as they had appointed special committees for each hospital, who visited them regularly, ministering most faithfully to the wants of the inmates, and in several cases taking the sick or wounded to their own homes. We have had several hospitals within and near the city, some of them continuing in existence but four or five months, others during the year.

Early after their establishment, the General Government appointed two chaplains, Rev. Messrs. Hatton and Hindshaw, to labor among them and in the camp in the vicinity. Rev. Mr. Hatton still continues in his position. These brethren have been faithful and laborious in their care of the soldiers, and we have deemed it our duty to co-operate with them. Most of the books, tracts, and papers distributed by the Committee have been placed in their hands, and generally the care of the religious meetings has been left with them. It would add to the interest of this report, if we could give you an account of the various religious meetings secured by the Committee in the hospitals and camps; but no record has been kept.

During the entire year, there have been camps of soldiers in the vicinity. The number of men here at present is very small; but early in the year and through midsummer, the number was very large. Probably not less than fifty to sixty thousand men have camped here for a shorter or longer time during the year.

Efforts have been made by the Committee and others to supply these camps with religious services and reading matter, Testaments, tracts, and papers. The pressure upon us at the time of the rebel invasion, and immediately subsequent to the battle of Gettysburg, was very great, and could not have been met without the aid received by the presence of several delegates of the Christian Commission sent from Philadelphia, whose labors were principally devoted to Camp Curtin and the supply of hospitals here and at Gettysburg. A report of their labors has doubtless been furnished. With the aid of the large tent of the Commission, which was erected at Camp Curtin, daily religious services were held until the camp was vacated, which were conducted with marked interest and good results. In the camp of the Invalid Corps, about two miles east of the city, religious reading has been distributed, preaching by the pastors of our churches secured, and the hospital supplied with articles greatly needed. The camp was removed some two months ago.

Four public meetings have been held during the year, three of them in the city, and one in New Cumberland, a small town across the river. These meetings have all been largely attended. The last one, at which addresses were made by Messrs. Patterson and Lyford, was very enthusiastic. The largest church in the city was wholly unable to accommodate the multitude who sought a place within it. Governor Curtin presided, with that dignity which characterizes him, and made an eloquent address, fully commending the Commission to the public favor. Our first public meeting was very large and successful. It was addressed by Rev. Messrs. Reed and Mingins, Hon. H. D. Moore, State Treasurer, and G. H. Stuart, Esq. The third public meeting was addressed by the clergymen of our own city.

The amount of money contributed to the Committee during the year, is $2367 51. Of this amount, $2120 15 was sent to the Committee in Philadelphia; the remainder, $247 36, was employed in our local work.

One member of our association, Mr. Robert McElwee, labored most faithfully for some weeks at Camp Curtin in connection with the tent movement, giving his whole time cheerfully and gratuitously. As he was in our own midst, no commission was issued to him. But three commissions have been issued during

the year. Two of the Committee, Messrs. Kelker and Robinson, visited the hospitals at Gettysburg as delegates, and the latter visited the hospital at Shippensburg, leaving much-needed supplies, and also spent a month, immediately subsequent to the battle of Chickamauga, in a visit to the Army of the Cumberland. His experience in the hospitals at Nashville, Tennessee, Stevenson, Alabama, Cowan, Tennessee, and at Chattanooga, and his trial of army life in a week's journey with a supply train through the valleys and over the mountains of Southern Tennessee, have greatly deepened his conviction of the immense value of the Commission to the Army of the Union.

In conclusion, the Committee would express their own deep interest in the work of the Commission, and their regrets that they have not been able to do much more than has been done. Let us assure you that the Commission has the prayers and warm sympathies not only of ourselves, but of the Christian people of this city.

T. H. Robinson,
Chairman of Committee.

PITTSBURG COMMITTEE.

The Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania was organized April 6th, 1863. Prior to that time, the only association which had been regularly and systematically forwarding hospital stores to the army, was the Pittsburg Subsistence Committee, appointed by the citizens of Pittsburg at a meeting held in August, 1861. Its proper duty was the forwarding of refreshments for all regiments or companies passing through the city to or from the seat of war. After the reception from several hospitals of pressing appeals for stores, the Committee opened depots for receiving articles for the sick and wounded soldiers, and sent or appointed agents at various points to attend to the proper distribution of the goods donated. Depending entirely on the free will offerings of the people, the contributions poured in so rapidly and continuously that goods, amounting in value to sixty thousand dollars, were forwarded and distributed by the Subsistence Committee between January, 1862, and April, 1863.

After a meeting held by George H. Stuart, Esq., and others, the Subsistence Committee resolved to transfer its store-room and stores on hand to the United States Christian Commission, and, while not neglecting its legitimate work of feeding the soldiers, to unite heartily with the national organization in its great work.

At a meeting of ministers and members of the various denominations, held in the Second Presbyterian Church, April 6, 1863, the *Army Committee of Western Pennsylvania* was organized, and the following officers elected:

President, Rev. Herrick Johnson.
Chairman of Executive Committee, Hon. Robert McKnight.
Secretary, Robert C. Follen.
Treasurer, Joseph Albree.
Receiver, William P. Weyman.

The first public meeting was held on the evening of April 16, 1863, at which time the new committee began to work in connection with the United States Christian Commission. The results of its operations during the last nine months may be briefly summed up as follows:

Cash contributions received, - - - - -	$21,348 81
Estimated value of stores donated, - - - -	45,708 79
Estimated value of stores sent to the armies, - -	54,079 01
Estimated value of reading matter sent to the armies,	4,635 29

Delegates.

We have sent seventy-two delegates to the armies, earnest, faithful men, who have often, at great personal inconvenience, devoted their time and talents to the relief of the suffering. We have, in a great measure, depended on presbyteries, conferences, and other church councils, to appoint delegates to represent them in this department of Christian labor. Many have entered heartily into the work, and have, at their quarterly meetings, taken measures to keep one or two representatives constantly in the field. Their example is worthy of imitation.

Labor in the Home Field.

Our opportunities for Christian labor in the home field have been limited; but we have, in connection with the Subsistence

Committee, distributed a large amount of religious reading matter to troops passing through the city. At the Soldiers' Home, religious services and prayer-meetings are held regularly by our returned delegates.

During the summer and autumn, two delegates were stationed at Camp Copeland, about eight miles from the city. Prayer-meetings were held every evening, and Testaments and tracts distributed. Mr. Wallace Radcliffe reports that, by God's blessing on the labors, many were awakened, and some converted. On one occasion, a very interesting meeting was held in the Girard House by its inmates. The delegate had been distributing Testaments and hymn-books among them, and had gone to his tent. Soon after, the sergeant of the guard came to him, exclaiming, "Chaplain, I guess there's no use of a guard down there to-night; the boys have all been singing and praying all the evening."

The Pittsburg Subsistence Committee.

Of the valuable aid rendered by the ladies of the Pittsburg Subsistence Committee, we cannot speak in too unqualified terms of praise. Already engaged in arduous and painstaking effort in the department of subsistence, taking care that no soldier should pass through the city at any hour of the day or night without being offered a wholesome meal, they have yet found time, with busy hands and warm hearts, to do incalculable service in behalf of the United States Christian Commission. With rare assiduity and unaffected cheerfulness, they have responded to every call made upon them, often generously pledging themselves to duties demanding no trifling self-denial for their faithful and effective discharge. If that womanhood is the richest which is oftenest engaged in beneficent tasks, and quickest to do where the doing is likely to go untrumpeted, then are the ladies of the Pittsburg Subsistence Committee "affluent with more than the matter of barbaric pearls and gold." They are busy, bustling Marthas, each with Mary's loving heart.

CINCINNATI COMMITTEE.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.,
Chairman United States Christian Commission.

We have the profound satisfaction to record and report that the Cincinnati Branch of the United States Christian Commission has thus far been highly favored of God. It is now, at the close of the year, only about six months since it was formed. During this time, all the difficulties incident to the organization and early progress of a great work have been overcome, our field principles and plans thoroughly defined, our relations to the central office and various branches of the Commission settled, the magnitude of our undertaking measured, the public informed and enlisted, and the churches and people have shown a remarkable readiness to sustain us in measures far more enlarged and comprehensive than we dared at first to entertain.

Considerable embarrassment was caused during the first four months for want of suitable central headquarters. Happily this was obviated in November by a warm welcome, rent free, to the present commodious rooms on Vine Street, from our chairman, in behalf of himself and his partner in business. With the change of our quarters commenced also a change of our policy in regard to hospital stores. Experience had abundantly shown the necessity to have our delegates well supplied with the means of meeting the bodily wants of our brave and suffering men whilst endeavoring to minister to their spiritual well-being. Observation led to the conviction, that however much the people might give to us for this purpose, it would not take from their benefactions through other channels; but would be all clear gain, if indeed it did not, by increase of interest, tend to swell still more the other streams of beneficence to the soldiers.

The importance of having our supplies under our own control, to send when and where it was necessary to meet the demands of our work, and be ready, like our *minute men*, at a minute's warning, without circumlocution, pressed also upon us. Accordingly we opened our doors to receive such hospital stores as might come in, and almost without an appeal the amount sent

during the five or six closing weeks of the year, is not far from thirty thousand dollars in value.

The demand for Western family religious papers in our Western military departments, has induced us to send large numbers of them from week to week to the soldiers.

The Cincinnati Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, through Rev. Bishop, has generously given us the services of Rev. J. F. Loyd, who has done much by his wisdom, energy, and efficiency, both in his own personal work and in the direction of others, first at Nashville and now at Chattanooga, for the present and eternal good of our noble men of the army. Much has also been accomplished in the way of adding books, tracts, and stationery from our Western sources of supply to the large amount received and sent forward from the East. And opportunity has been offered to Western ministers and earnest Christian workers to go forth as delegates, which they have gladly embraced, until the number sent already from this office, during these few weeks, is forty-eight.

The accompanying communication from our first secretary, who has himself gone repeatedly to the army in times of greatest emergency, and also traversed the West extensively to awaken interest for our work, will give a vivid idea of the inestimable worth to our soldiers in the field of the delegate work of the Christian Commission.

From the Rev. B. W. Chidlaw.

Geo. H. Stuart, Esq.,

President United States Christian Commission.

The Cincinnati Branch of the United States Christian Commission was organized early last summer. At our first public meeting, General Burnside favored us with an address, and our friends gave us the first collection in behalf of the Commission. Since that time, we have received $21,250 in cash, besides a large amount of stores and publications. We have sent forty-eight delegates to the field, the camp, and the hospitals of the armies of Generals Grant and Burnside. Thirty-six are now at work for Christ and our country. During the year, I travelled eighteen thousand six hundred miles, and made one hundred and

fifty addresses in behalf of the Commission. My labors have extended into Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Alabama. I have been always welcomed by officers and privates, and my labors gratefully appreciated. In his tent, or lingering on his cot, the soldier, sick or well, gladly received the benefactions of friends at home, and generally, with evident interest, heard my Gospel messages.

Through the kindness of the Cincinnati Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission, I was favored with a free passage on the Sanitary steamer Dunlieth from Cincinnati to Young's Point, Louisiana, and with an abundant supply of stores, so that I might efficiently minister to the temporal as well as the spiritual wants of our brave defenders on duty in forts, camps, and on our gun-boats, from Cairo, Illinois, to Vicksburg, Mississippi. During this trip, I distributed a large amount of reading matter, preached some thirty times, and conversed with hundreds of our soldiers and sailors.

On a gunboat, below Cairo, an officer welcomed my visit most cordially, saying, "You are the first minister that has stood on our deck with reading matter for our crew, and words of cheer for us all." On another, a fine-looking youth, neat and trim, in his blue jacket, met me at the gangway with an earnest salutation, adding, "You used to address our Sabbath-school at home. I am so glad to see you." He aided me to find my way over the vessel while distributing books, and kindly introduced me to many of his companions. In the camps around Memphis, and the hospitals in the city, I found abundant opportunities of usefulness. At that time, the work was great and the laborers few. Now the Christian Commission has a strong foothold, and a bright record of extended labor and abundant usefulness.

Descending the Mississippi, on the deserted cotton-fields of Louisiana, in long lines of encampments among the heroes that captured Vicksburg, with my fellow-laborers, Burnell of Wisconsin, and Reynolds of Illinois, I labored in word and deed with much encouragement. On the floating hospital, moored near Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, with its seven hundred and sixty sick and languishing patients, I found many hands to receive our gifts, and many ears open to hear the glorious Gospel of the Son of God. One poor fellow, near the portals of death,

when I asked him how he was, exclaimed, with a genial smile and a holy ecstacy, "*In Christ, I am happy day and night. All is well.*" In a few days, as we were bearing him on our boat towards his Northern home, he died in great peace; and now the mortal remains of Albert Cunningham rest with his kindred in a beautiful graveyard in Central Ohio.

At the Van Buren Convalescent Hospital, a few miles below, occupying a planter's residence, and the lovely lawn surrounding it, where the pride of China and the magnolia were blooming and the mocking-birds nestled, we found eighteen hundred men glad to see "somebody from home," anxious to receive "something to read," and ready to hear our words of encouragement and Christian instruction. In what was once a "negro quarter," we found a band of pious soldiers holding a prayer-meeting. Seeing the grace of God to these "blue-coat" brethren, I was truly glad, and "exhorted them all that, with purpose of heart, they would cleave unto the Lord." Another "quarter" was occupied by colored people. I entered and said to them I only wished to see the "slave quarters." An intelligent-looking man said, "Lor, massa, dis is not a slave-quarter any more; we be all free, bless de Lord." The treason of their masters removed their chains and gave them freedom. Quite a number of "freedmen" gathered around me, and on the sill of the door I preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection; and on the sod in front we knelt in prayer with these sable sons of Ethiopia, commending them to the God of all grace and consolation.

Immediately after the battle of Chickamauga, with thirteen other delegates I left Cincinnati for the scenes of carnage and of suffering. Travelling four hundred and sixty miles, I reached Stevenson, Alabama, on the 25th of September. Here I met Brothers Parsons and Harvey supplying a train of wounded soldiers with bread and coffee. At once I was welcomed as a helper in this important work of relief. The poor fellows had made their way, as best they could, from Chattanooga to Bridgeport; thence, by the cars thirteen miles, to this place. Exhausted and hungry, faint and weary, they needed refreshments. Some two thousand loaves of excellent bread, and a bountiful supply of coffee, hot and good, these wounded men, passing through Stevenson,

received from the hands of the delegates of the Christian Commission, the supplies being furnished by the Government. In our chapel, we held religious services twice a day, generally very well attended. Several of the soldiers became deeply convicted of sin, and earnestly inquired what they must do to be saved. Blessed privilege, even amid the fearful realities of war, to point them to the "Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." In our chapel I have seen from thirty to fifty soldiers attentively reading, or diligent in writing to their friends at home.

In the field hospitals near Stevenson, we found two thousand sick and wounded men. Here we distributed sanitary stores, which were much needed and gratefully received. From tent to tent we visited the uncomplaining sufferers, doing good, as God enabled us, to their souls and to their bodies. The large quantity of stationery which we distributed, met a very pressing want, and enabled hundreds to write to their anxious relatives and friends at home. While preaching a funeral sermon in one of our hospitals, I observed one of my hearers, who was lying on a pallet of straw, evidently drawing near to death, very much interested; failing to repress his emotions, bringing his attenuated hands together, he exclaimed, "*Glory be to God for the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ.*" At the close of our service, I approached the poor sufferer and asked him if he loved Jesus Christ? With a heavenly sweetness of voice and a full heart, he replied, "*Oh, yes, and Jesus loves me.*" To this dying soldier death had no sting, the grave no gloom—all was bright beyond. Alas! all our brave men are not the friends of Christ. Multitudes are hardened in sin, reckless and indifferent to the claims of God and eternity. In the tent, the camp, the hospital, we meet with abounding iniquity and irreligion. Too many of our brave men neglect the great salvation; yet we always found them accessible, easily impressed by kind words and good deeds. The prudent, earnest, faithful, Christ-like delegate, and the laborious chaplain, may go among them, "bearing precious seed, and shall return with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them." God bless the United States Christian Commission.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, January 1st, 1864.

LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE.

The beneficent work of the Christian Commission in Louisville, and the points of military operation further south, can be but partially exhibited by the statistical part of our report. The most interesting results, indeed, of all Christian efforts are beyond the power of numbers to represent.

Previous to May, 1863, the operations of the Commission here were largely directed from the central office. Messrs. Hughes and Parkhill very kindly forwarded the supplies sent for the Army of the Cumberland, and J. E. Hardy, Esq., kept the reading matter sent for use here in a part of his store, from which it was taken for distribution by the chaplains and other friends of the soldier.

In the month of May, an office was opened here, mainly through the agency of Rev. E. P. Smith, field agent of the Christian Commission for the Army of the Cumberland, and Isaac Russell, Esq., of Louisville, was solicited to become field agent. He accepted the trust, and has since devoted his time and energies to the good work.

About this time delegates of the Commission began to arrive in considerable numbers on their way to the front. All were necessarily here for a short time, and some spent nearly their whole term of service in the various hospitals, barracks, and camps in this city and vicinity. In these labors the delegates were greatly aided and directed by hospital chaplains W. Holman and W. W. Meech, especially the latter, who, from his familiarity with all the hospitals and other places for labor, was able to introduce them to their work without the delay of a reconnoisance. Four other chaplains were sent to the hospitals of Louisville in July, all of whom have received the delegates most kindly, and given them great facilities for success in their work. Previous to May, the chaplains, with all the help they could secure, were able to supply the hospitals with preaching on the Lord's day only in part; and Chaplain Meech, as often as he could, held a religious service at the Exchange Barracks in the evening, and supplied the destitute with Testaments. But as soon as our delegates came to their assistance, more Sunday

services were held, with acceptance, and meetings every night, in the barracks, attended by the special tokens of God's favor. These meetings were held every night, with scarce an exception, from the 12th of May till the 25th of August. The absence of help temporarily suspended them; but in September, they were resumed again, attended with special encouragements. And these meetings still continue to be held as often as our delegates are able to attend them. The interest was so great at one time, the soldiers tried to keep up a meeting for themselves when there was no one to preach to them. Eternity alone can reveal the good done by the delegates of the Commission, in holding meetings, visiting the sick, to converse and pray with them, writing letters to friends, and doing a nameless variety of things for the benefit of our soldiers.

Delegates have visited and labored at Columbia, Lebanon, Munfordville, Glasgow, Lexington, Covington, Newport, Camp Nelson, and at many intermediate points, with great acceptance. Camp Nelson is a place of more than ordinary importance for the occupancy of the Commission. Among the points of greatest interest attended to in this city and vicinity, have been the several barracks and camps in and around us.

In the camp of the Fourth Tennessee Infantry, a Sunday-school was organized and continued during its stay. Something was also done towards teaching a number of these refugees to read the word of God, and all again had opportunities of hearing a loyal and faithful exhibition of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God.

Among the refugees from East Tennessee whom we met in the Fourth Regiment East Tennessee Volunteers, were Isaac Seaton and his two sons. They had been conscripted by the rebels, and, to keep out of the army, were secreted for several months. For refusing to tell where his sons were, and because he went to a place to help raise "the Flag of our Union," he was taken from his house at a late hour in the night by soldiers, under the guidance of a Secession neighbor, and hung three times in succession till nearly dead. He showed the marks on his hands and wrists of the cord that bound him during this suffering three months after. Failing to get what information they desired, they started with him as a prisoner; but he escaped

in a thicket with their shots flying by him, and ultimately reached this place, with his sons and others, where they enlisted in the Union army, to go back and fight for their homes and freedom in them. The attention of your agent was called to their condition by Chaplain Meech, who went with him and saw to their being supplied with Testaments and papers, and preached the first sermon to them many had heard for a year and a half.

Various camps of infantry, cavalry, artillery, and the camp of the Invalid Corps, have received the services of the delegates of the Commission with profit. The same is also true to a great extent of passing regiments. While they were stopping for refreshments, advantage was taken of the occasion to furnish a tract, paper, or small book for the knapsack, accompanied with a kind word, all of which were most acceptable. When the regiments from the Army of the Potomac were passing through this place in September last, a constant look-out was maintained. One delegate heard a regiment passing at or near midnight, and arose from his weary cot to go a mile and greet them with words of cheer and encouragement, and to give them some of our interesting publications, to enlighten their minds when the morning light should enable them to peruse them.

The agency of the Commission has rendered all the aid in its power to friends seeking sick relatives, by securing passes for them when possible, and personally administering both material and spiritual comfort, and has often received the hearty thanks of the anxious and afflicted ones. In one instance your agent met at the railroad depot a very sick man, accompanied him to the hospital, and then secured an interview for him with his loving wife, whom he had not seen for nearly a year. As soon as she saw her husband, she was convinced his earthly sojourn was short. In a large ward of the hospital, surrounded by the sick, they watched beside his cot till the dawning of a new day, when permission from the proper authority was procured to take him to a private residence. To this he was borne on a litter, where, with a relative of his wife, your agent rendered all possible assistance till he died, about two days after, and was removed to his early home for burial.

In view of the varied wants of the Christian Commission, your Committee has deemed it wise to issue a circular, setting

forth its work and necessities, accompanied by such facts as would impress the people of the State with its importance and the feasibility of its plan of operations. Such a circular has been prepared, and is expected to secure money and stores for your treasury and men for your work. Your agent has visited many parts of the State, conversed with persons of influence acquainted with the different neighborhoods around them, and, by the diffusion of information in regard to the Commission, has prepared the way for liberal contributions to its treasury.

Free access has been given our delegates to all the hospitals, camps, and barracks of the city and vicinity; and they have preached, conversed, and prayed with the sick and dying, written letters for them and their friends, and distributed our publications freely among them. A very interesting state of religious interest has resulted in some instances. In one, a delegate conversed and prayed with a sick man, who expressed hope in the Saviour at the conclusion of the prayer, and died only two days after, rejoicing in the Lord.

Many of the poor and unfortunate refugees from Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama, who had lost almost everything, reached this city, where they have been temporarily provided for. Your agency has done what it could by visiting their sick, attending their funerals, holding religious services with them, furnishing Testaments to such as could read, and primers and Sunday-school papers to the children.

The numerous rebel prisoners confined in the military prison here, and being sent hence to Camp Chase and other points, have found a place in the labors of the Commission. The Testaments, tracts, and clothing that have been furnished them, have been thankfully received.

It affords us great pleasure to acknowledge the kind attentions of Dr. T. S. Bell whenever called to visit sick delegates. The Rev. Henry Powers, a delegate of the Commission, was sick here for several weeks, and a part of the time dangerously ill. Mr. J. M. Stevens and his most estimable lady took him home to their house, and, like the Good Samaritan, were unremitting in the kindest attentions to him, gratuitously bestowed, till he was restored to health. Mr. Maull, also, was untiring in kind attentions to Mr. Powers.

On Thanksgiving day a sumptuous dinner was provided for some of the hospitals by the loyal ladies and friends of the soldiers, and in others religious services were held without an unusual dinner. As Christmas approached, a movement was made to secure a generous dinner for the twenty hospitals, soldiers' home barracks, and camps, in the city and vicinity. The response was most praiseworthy. A superabundance of everything needful was provided, and served chiefly by the ladies, whose very presence and kindness cheered the hearts of our noble soldiers beyond the power of expression. The tables groaned under the pressure of good things provided, when the long line of soldiers marched up to the assault on their delicious contents. A few appropriate remarks were made, and the chaplains asked God's blessing on all. Then the ladies vied with each other in serving them, as they had first served the sicker patients in the wards, until, in the gladness of the hour, those who had endured hardness as good soldiers for their country forgot their hardships. This complete demonstration of kind care and sympathy can never be forgotten by our noble soldiers, who were made so happy by it. One hospital and camp were reserved for a new-year's dinner of the same character.

Our relations to the Sanitary Commission have been of a most kind and pleasant character. They have received at their storerooms and forwarded all supplies destined for Nashville and points beyond, with a degree of promptness truly commendable. The work of the two Commissions has thus been blended, like the union of the body and soul, for which they labor.

It is gratifying to us to be able to acknowledge many favors at the hands of the Adams' Express Company, which has taken many boxes and bundles free to the soldiers in all parts of the State. The railroads to and from this city have very cheerfully passed the delegates free of charge, and many of our stores. All have our warmest thanks, which are especially due to those of Kentucky. We also take pleasure in expressing our kindest regards to the line of mail-boats which have carried our delegates to and from Cincinnati at reduced fare, as we do to all who have in any way aided us in the great and noble work God has enabled us thus far to accomplish. Hoping for the continued favor of all those who have aided us, and especially

for the Divine blessing, that makes rich, and adds no sorrow, we here close our report of the operations of the year of our Lord 1863.

ISAAC RUSSELL,
For the Committee.

LOUISVILLE, KY., December 31, 1863.

Obituary Note.

Since closing the report of our operations during the year 1863, and before we had time to mail the report to you at the central office, it has pleased the Lord to call to higher service our most esteemed and now lamented brother, Thomas Quigley, Esq., the efficient Treasurer of this branch of the Christian Commission. He departed this life on the second day of January, 1864, at the age of sixty-four years, having for many years so honored a Christian profession as to secure the highest regard of all who knew him. Words fail to express the loss sustained by us and a large circle of bereaved friends, to whom we give assurance of our sympathy and prayers. May his mantle fall on another, to glorify God with a spirit of equal devotion to his cause.

DEATH OF THOMAS QUIGLEY, ESQ.

The hearts of this community were painfully and suddenly afflicted yesterday morning in hearing of the death of the venerable and much-loved Thomas Quigley, Esq. He was so regular in all his habits, that no one in looking at him had a thought of his death to cross his mind. We saw him on Saturday morning, and very little expected then to hear that he had to be carried home that day a sufferer from an attack of paralysis. Mr. Quigley was one of the best citizens of Kentucky. He was quiet, unassuming, unobtrusive, yet he was one of the most public-spirited men in the State. He was always alive to everything that could promote the prosperity or welfare of the people. The people owe to him a large portion of the gratitude that is due for the building and successful running of the Nashville Railroad. In all financial matters his name was a tower of strength. He was one of the best financiers that Kentucky has produced. Throughout the struggle against the rebellion, he has been one

of the most zealous and one of the most untiring of the friends of the Union. In all respects, Thomas Quigley was one of the best men we have ever known. It would be folly to attempt expressions of condolence toward the afflicted family, with any hope that their agonized hearts are now open to such expressions. The State and the city deeply, profoundly feel this irreparable loss. Time, the consoler, only can assuage this private and public sorrow.—*Journal.*

ST. LOUIS COMMITTEE.

Report of the St. Louis Branch of the United States Christian Commission for the Year 1863.

In reviewing the labors of the past year, we have much cause for gratitude. God has opened a wide door of usefulness, both here and in the Army of the Mississippi. We have not forgotten our sailors, or the "freedmen" who wear our national uniform.

The home work for the multitudes in our numerous hospitals, during the whole year, has been intensely interesting and very laborious. To care for and suitably minister to the wants of ten thousand men, has called for more labor than we have been able fully to meet. It was only a portion of the year that our hospitals were thus crowded.

Delegates from other States, the ladies of the Union Aid Society of this city, and members of this Commission, have done what they could to supplement the work of the chaplains, both in camp and hospitals, in ministering to the spiritual and temporal wants of our brave soldiers.

There have been sent out from our rooms and personally distributed three hundred and eighty-five thousand five hundred and eighty-eight publications, and three million one hundred and seventy four thousand five hundred and sixty-one pages of tracts, besides those sent to us by the parent society. Also, four thousand six hundred and ninety-two volumes of books have been collected by the field agent, as an incidental part of his work, and put in hospital wards for libraries. All of the prin-

cipal hospitals in and near St. Louis have thus been furnished, to the great gratification of chaplains, surgeons in charge, and the edification of the patients. The soldiers are grateful for these tokens of interest in their mental and spiritual welfare.

At Jefferson Barracks, twelve miles south of the city, we have had, besides other voluntary laborers, a lady missionary, who has given her entire time to laboring directly with the soldiers in their wards, and tells us that *not a week has passed in that time but some have been hopefully converted.* Hundreds have, during the year, given satisfactory evidence of having passed from death unto life. Her labors show what a pious, self-denying lady can do for soldiers in hospitals.

Rev. A. S. Wells spent two months also at Jefferson Barracks, where there were eighteen hundred patients in the wards. He writes, "I have spent sixty-one days in your service, dividing my time between Lawson Hospital, New House of Refuge, General Hospital, and Benton and Jefferson Barracks. Six weeks of this time was devoted to Jefferson Barracks. During this time I have delivered thirty-four Gospel sermons, have taken part in and conducted numerous prayer-meetings, conversed and prayed with a great number at their bedsides, have written letters for the soldiers, and distributed a large amount of reading matter.

At Benton Barracks there has been erected during the year, by the generous contributions of the citizens of St. Louis and army officers and soldiers, a commodious chapel, where daily services have been held. The religious interest at these barracks has been remarkable during the whole year. For a good portion of the year, two services a day were held by the chaplains and members of this Commission. It was not an unfrequent circumstance to have one thousand at these meetings. As many as seventy soldiers at one time have arisen for prayer. Hundreds have been hopefully converted. At times we have had at these barracks near eight thousand men, consisting of paroled soldiers, men for the navy, convalescents, sick and wounded from Arkansas and Mississippi. It has been "a field white for the harvest," accessible to the city by railroad; it has enjoyed the benefits of not only chaplains, but a large number of volunteer laborers from the Ladies' Union Aid Society, who have been

untiring and indefatigable in caring for and richly supplying the temporal and spiritual wants of these noble men.

Benton Barracks at this time is crowded with soldiers and patients, and still calls for unremitting exertions to benefit and bless the thousands coming and going from that place. God is still there by His Holy Spirit; the meetings are crowded. Another chapel is needed to accommodate the numbers who would gladly attend religious exercises. There are at the present time over two thousand "freedmen" wearing our uniform, and hundreds coming weekly; for their benefit much needs to be done, and will call for special attention from the Commission.

"Camp Jackson," near the city, has contained, during the year, many regiments, called in for the defence of the city and State from Arkansas, Minnesota, and other points, affording us an opportunity of resupplying them with Testaments and other reading matter, besides preaching to them. Some of these regiments had lost their chaplains, had not heard a sermon for nine months, had been at Pea Ridge, Helena, &c., and so constantly on the march that they had, during their hard service and severe hardships, lost their Testaments and all their reading matter. They duly appreciate the visits, preaching, and distribution. Several thousand Testaments, hymn-books, and papers were furnished them.

Pilot Knob, some ninety-five miles south of this, has afforded a fine field of labor. In the spring, some fifteen thousand infantry and artillery were collected there. After that, over ten thousand cavalry were collected there. Before the first were ordered to Vicksburg, they were very generally supplied with suitable books. The number of chaplains was very small. They had been out in the hardest service of the war. They seemed starved for reading matter. Gladly and very thankfully they received the books. Several of the regiments were urgent for preaching, saying they had not heard a sermon for a year. General Vandever, General Heron, and General Davidson gave their aid and influence to forward the distribution, and every facility for making it thorough. Chaplains, colonels, and captains welcomed the visits of the delegates and aided in the distributions.

At Memphis, reading rooms were opened by K. A. Burnell,

field agent, early last spring, from which have been issued a large amount of reading matter. Assisted by Rev. F. G. Ensign, daily prayer-meetings have been held. Brother Burnell, as field agent, and Rev. F. G. Ensign, as station agent, have looked after the soldiers in West Tennessee, North Mississippi, and Arkansas.

Brother Ensign, under date of December 7, writes: "The work is progressing better now than ever before. Our prayer-meetings are very interesting. There was a deeper interest manifested to-day than I have seen before. I was enabled to preach three times yesterday, and three times the Sabbath before. All the meetings were deeply interesting. Our room was pretty well filled at the afternoon service yesterday,—a much larger attendance than we have had at any previous meeting. I have learned that we must not be discouraged if often there are but few; for I see that almost every day half of those present are strangers. As soon as the soldiers from the hospitals are convalescent, and can get out and go about much, they are sent to the barracks or furloughed. This makes our meetings ever variable, but always interesting. I have no doubt there have been as many as two thousand different soldiers at our meetings within the past two months."

Our library at Memphis numbers about two hundred and fifty volumes, and is doing a good work. Nearly fifty volumes are out daily. The soldiers are careful of them, and return them.

K. A. Burnell has spent several weeks in the Northwest, addressing churches, raising funds, and awakening a deeper personal interest for the soldiers. His recent visit to Chattanooga, and six weeks' labor among the sick and wounded, after the battle of Chickamauga, were highly appreciated. Many will hold in lasting gratitude those timely counsels and self-denying labors.

His return to Memphis with the two ladies, to complete a more thorough organization of means to supply the spiritual wants of all who can be benefited at or near Memphis, is hailed with pleasure by all who are associated with him. He will look after the work of the Commission both at Vicksburg and Little Rock, and other points along the river.

At Vicksburg, such rooms have been opened and furnished as were necessary for delegates and the supply of the soldiers.

Little Rock has now its reading room, a daily prayer-meeting, and a good supply of books as libraries for the hospitals.

This Commission has sent Brother C. C. Thayer to co-operate with the chaplains at that point in supplying the twenty thousand soldiers there, and who can be reached from Little Rock. The chaplains passed a vote of thanks for our remembrances and supplies. They have a daily prayer-meeting at the reading rooms. The meetings are well attended, and the evidences of good are very encouraging.

Rev. P. Boughton, Secretary of the Seaman's Aid Society, has made one tour during December through to New Orleans, preaching and distributing at Cairo, Vicksburg, and other points, besides services on the boats, acting as a delegate, but not at the expense of the Commission.

For the soldiers on our Western frontier, over ten thousand in number, located at Fort Leavenworth, Fort Scott, Fort Smith, and as far out as Fort Benton, arrangements have been made to send them regular supplies of reading matter. The recent visit of the field agent was welcomed by the people of St. Joseph, Leavenworth, and Lawrence, and liberal contributions given, although fire and sword had so terribly desolated their borders and nearly levelled Lawrence to the ground.

For the "freedmen," who have been gathering here since last August as soldiers, we are furnishing spelling-books for beginners, and Testaments and papers to such as can read. In the first regiment of eight hundred men, it was found that about one hundred of the number could read. Five hundred spelling-books were furnished to the others before they left for Helena, Arkansas. All who are accepted as officers for the colored regiments, have to give satisfactory evidence *that they neither drink nor swear, and to pledge themselves to become teachers to their men.* This is very hopeful, and full of promise for good. The teacher is thus constantly with his pupils. As a class, these officers are moral, and most of them religious men. If we will only furnish the books, these officers will become teachers, thus forming a vast peripatetic school for the million emerging from bondage. To the patriot and Christian, this is truly one of the signs of the times.

Our correspondence from officers in the army, from chaplains

and colaborers, is full of hope and encouragement. We are strengthened by such letters to press forward in the work. We give extracts from one sent by General Clinton B. Fiske, on the receipt of a package of reading matter:

"Brother Smyth, of the St. Louis Branch Christian Commission, sent me a large lot of reading matter a few days ago. God bless the Christian Commission and all who carry the bread of life to the soldiers in camp and hospitals. Exhort all who love God to write, *write*, WRITE to them, to their fathers, husbands, brothers, lovers, and friends in the army, with earnest entreaty that they keep from every wicked thing when the host goeth forth against the enemy. Letters from home, *written in the proper spirit*, are *sermons*, that reach the heart and start the tear of penitence from many a wandering one."

Such were the feelings of General Fiske while engaged with his brigade in taking Vicksburg. As commander of the post of St. Louis, he is a terror to evil doers and a praise to them who do well. The Committee are cheered by his presence at our meetings and cordial co-operation in carrying out plans for the good of the soldiers.

Our receipts from all sources during the year have been $5108 81; expenditures, $4078 88; leaving a balance of $1029 93.

Thirty delegates have been commissioned and sent out, six of whom are still in commission. 58,711 Testaments, 190 Bibles, 16,815 hymn-books; 52,392 knapsack-books, 4756 bound volumes, 6343 magazines, 3,174,561 pages of tracts, 225,369 papers, 19,214 cards, and 1798 miscellaneous publications, inclusive of all received from the central office and all other sources, have been distributed during the year.

With our rooms located in a central position of the city, where daily prayer-meetings and other services are held; with an efficient Committee, ready for every good word and work; with a field agent to visit the hospitals and the army, and also to lay our wants before the churches and secure their interest and co-operation; with our brethren and colaborers at Memphis, Little Rock, Vicksburg, Natchez, and on the gunboats; with the people on all parts of our field ready to give their

money or sanitary supplies, we enter on the labors of the new year, hoping to accomplish much for the spiritual and temporal benefit of the brave men who have set us an example of self-denial and devotion.

The co-operation of Peoria, Detroit, Chicago, and Milwaukie, should enable us to canvass thoroughly the home field, and provide both men and means to thoroughly supply our Southwestern army.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Commission at the rooms, St. Louis, January 18, 1864.

ISAAC S. SMYTH,
Chairman.

JNO. B. WHITEHEAD,
Secretary.

J. H. PARSONS,
Corresponding Secretary St. Louis Christian Commission.

LETTER FROM A GRATEFUL SOLDIER.

WARD O, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, MO.,
October 12, 1863.

MISS JENNIE L. WHEDON,
Bunker Hill, Illinois.

You will pardon the presumption of a wounded soldier for writing you a few lines. Seeing your name in a book that I have just finished reading, I thought surely you must be a friend to the soldier to give or send books to the hospital. If you could realize how eagerly the soldiers grab at the pamphlets, tracts, and books that are distributed among them, you would not falter in the good work of giving reading matter to the sick or wounded soldier. It gladdens the soldier's heart to think that he is thought of and cared for, after fatiguing marches and suffering from the want of food. Hoping you will continue to give or send good books, I tender you the thanks of the sick and wounded soldiers of Ward O.

Respectfully,
DAVID A. TROWBRIDGE.

The above is one of the books contained in six boxes sent from that place, besides a handsome donation in money.

LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINS AT JEFFERSON BARRACKS.

JEFFERSON BARRACKS,
October 30, 1863.

REV. S. WELLS,
Field Agent, &c.

We desire gratefully to acknowledge the reception, from time to time during the last several months, of books and packages of books, and other reading matter, sent through your kind agency for distribution in this hospital. Please accept our thanks for your Christian interest in behalf of the sick and wounded soldiers now placed providentially under our care, and whose comfort and spiritual edification, as we trust, are daily promoted and ministered to through the aid of your acceptable and timely benefactions. Praying God to bless you abundantly in your labors, we are,

Very truly and fraternally, yours,

JOHN F. FISH,
Post Chaplain United States Army.

SAMUEL PETTIGREW,
Hospital Chaplain United States Army.

PEORIA COMMITTEE.

Report of the Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of Peoria, Illinois, for 1863.

THIS Committee has done a large, and, we hope, a profitable work in the army this year. The number of delegates has not been large; but great care has been taken to send none but those well qualified for the work. The President of our association left for the Army of the Mississippi on the 2d of February. He visited Memphis and the army then before Vicksburg. The weather being unfavorable for out-door meetings, his labors were principally confined to the hospitals. Having remained away about a month, he returned, and made arrangements for a more protracted visit later in the season.

Rev. Hiram Doane, our city missionary, being desirous of

laboring for Jesus among the soldiers, and hearing of the want of a faithful chaplain in the hospitals of Nashville, we sent him to that place on the 1st of February. He remained there, working most faithfully in the cause of his Master, until he found his health failing, consequent upon the constant breathing of the fetid atmosphere of the hospitals. His whole heart was in the work, however, and he determined to continue in the army for the war. He immediately proceeded to Memphis, and entered the Forty-seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteers as their chaplain, where he continued until his Master called him up higher. But few men were so admirably adapted for this glorious work as Mr. Doane. Faithful, persevering, deeply sympathizing with the suffering, kind to all, and always on the watch to do something for his Lord and Master, he was a model chaplain. Through all the battles and siege of Vicksburg, he was always with his regiment. Where the fight was most bloody and the carnage most awful, there was always to be found this most faithful man of God, caring for the wounded, and as far as in his power relieving suffering. But few men have the power which he possessed, of drawing others towards them, and gaining the confidence and affection of those among whom he was thrown. It required no summons from the commander to bring out an audience for his services in the camp. The sound of his voice, as he stood in the midst of the encampment, was enough. The boys clustered around, eager for the words of him who lived as he taught. In the midst of his usefulness he was called away by that mysterious Providence "whose ways are not our ways." All we can do is to bow our heads in submission and say, "Thy will be done." He died on the 21st of July, in the United States Hospital at Vicksburg.

> "Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep,
> From which none ever wake to weep;
> A calm and undisturbed repose,
> Unbroken by the last of foes."

On the 31st of March, the President of our Association, accompanied by Rev. Sanford H. Smith and Miss Mary Smith, left for the Army of the Mississippi. At Cairo they were joined by Mr. Howard of the American Tract Society, and at Memphis by Mr. K. A. Burnell of the St. Louis Association. They

labored in the hospitals of Memphis and among the soldiers around that city, also in Fort Pickering, for some two weeks, Messrs. Burnell and Reynolds proceeding down the river to Helena and Vicksburg; Miss Smith accepting a position in the Union Hospital, where she now is, giving her time and all she has for the relief of our poor suffering soldiers. When the history of this war is written, one of its most glorious pages will be the record of the self-denying devotion of these Christian women, who have left comfortable, and, in many cases, luxurious homes, for years of labor in our Southern hospitals. Rev. Mr. Smith remained for a few weeks preaching Jesus to the thousands of soldiers surrounding Memphis.

At Helena, Messrs. Reynolds and Burnell were entertained, during their stay of a week, by that Christian soldier, General Fiske, who is not only a soldier of his country, but a soldier of the Cross, carrying aloft the Stars and Stripes and "standing up for Jesus" wherever he is placed. All the camps and hospitals at this point were visited and supplied with religious reading, and many an inquiring soul pointed to Jesus. While at this point, an Iowa regiment was visited by Mr. Reynolds, and upon inquiry, was informed no religious service had been held in it for over nine months. The assembly call being sounded, a majority of the regiment convened, and were addressed by Mr. Reynolds upon the subject of their souls' salvation. At the close of the meeting all Christians were requested to remain. Nine persons tarried. The speaker asked them if they were willing to live for the future as they had in the past, with no religious services whatever. He reminded them of the command, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." Deep feeling was manifested by the little number,—penitence for past neglect of duty; and at the close of the remarks they all with one consent resolved that, God helping them, they would be more fully consecrated to their Saviour, whom for so many months they had "followed afar off." It was announced that in the evening a prayer-meeting would be held in a deserted plantation house near at hand. Upon the arrival of the hour for meeting, the expected nine appeared, and with them between two and three hundred of their fellow-soldiers. The meeting was opened by singing the hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus'

name." This was followed by the offering up of a prayer by one of the officers of the regiment. As the meeting progressed, many, unused to weep, were seen bathed in tears; sobs and crying were heard from almost every portion of that large congregation, and that night there "was joy in the presence of the angels of God over sinners repenting." A fine-looking officer arose and said, "Soldiers, you are no doubt surprised at seeing me here this evening, and you will be more surprised when I tell you that I was once a Christian, and have now a Christian wife and three children in the State of Iowa. Before I left them, that wife made me promise to maintain my Christian character unsullied in the army. But I soon forgot that promise. On entering this regiment I had not moral courage enough to tell any one I was a Christian. Ashamed to pray, I soon found Christ was ashamed of me. I fell fast into profanity, intemperance, and gambling. As most of you know, I am now addicted to all those vices. Do you think I am happy? Oh, no; I am miserable. That faithful wife would write me each week a long letter, and at the close would often say, 'Oh, George, if we are never permitted to meet on earth again, how it comforts me to know we will meet on the other side of Jordan, where there are no wars and no parting.' Oh, soldiers, how those letters would burn my heart! How that wife was deceived! Many a night I have lain awake thinking over my fallen condition, and then drowned my thoughts in the morning with liquor. Day before yesterday I received another letter from that wife, in which she said, 'George, in looking over your letters, I am surprised you say nothing about your religious condition; how you are progressing in your Christian course. Oh, George, can it be possible you have turned your back upon your Saviour, and that you are no longer a Christian? If I thought for a moment that if you should fall in this war, and I should never see you again in this world, and that we would never meet in the next, *it would break my heart.*'" The strong man was broken down. After becoming more calm, he proceeded, saying, "Now, soldiers, as for me, I, like the prodigal son, am determined to return to my Father. From this time henceforward I am determined to stand up for Christ as valiantly as for my country." And, from letters which we have received from that regiment, we

learn he *is* "standing up" and doing a great work in drawing others to Jesus.

From Helena Messrs. Burnell and Reynolds proceeded to Milliken's Bend, about nine miles above Vicksburg. From this point the troops proceeded to Grand Gulf and the rear of Vicksburg. Here they had an opportunity of distributing large quantities of Testaments, hymn-books, &c., and holding meetings with some thirty or forty regiments, besides supplying all the hospitals and hospital boats with libraries, and a Testament and hymn-book placed in the hand of every man able to read. Some most touching incidents are upon our records, which came under the observation of our delegates while at this point. Large numbers of soldiers were induced to exchange their cards for Testaments and hymn-books. Religious associations were started in a number of regiments, and God blessed the labors of the delegates abundantly. About three tons of religious reading matter was distributed in the two weeks they labored at this place. Rev. Mr. Smith joined Messrs. Burnell and Reynolds here, and devoted a large share of his time to laboring with the contrabands who were in camp at this place and Lake Providence. He did a noble work among these poor outcasts. Our delegates left Milliken's Bend on their return on the 8th May, reaching home on the 15th.

On the 10th of June we commissioned the Rev. Mr. Jennison of Michigan, and Rev. Mr. Cornelison of this State. The former proceeded to Vicksburg, where he was at the time of its surrender. His work was very laborious, and attended with great danger, both from the missiles of the enemy and the exposures to the climate, which is disastrous to one from the North visiting this region for the first time. He remained at his post faithfully doing his work until cut down by disease. The latter part of July he was obliged to return home, where he lay at the point of death for several weeks. The last accounts we had from him, in November, he had not fully recovered from his illness; thus almost sacrificing his life for the purpose of saving souls. God will bless such devotion to his cause. Mr. Cornelison remained in Memphis, laboring in the hospitals of that city, and pointing poor dying sinners to Jesus, the sinner's friend. He, too, was obliged to return, after a service of seven weeks in

the work. Hearing of the great destitution at Chattanooga, we sent the Rev. Mr. Hazen, on the 28th of September, to that point. This Committee has held, during the past year, ten army meetings, as follows:

Peoria, 2; Henry, 1; Pekin, 1; Elmwood, 1; Bloomington, 2; Galesburg, 1; Ottawa, 1; Jacksonville, 1.

We have also received and distributed a large quantity of sanitary stores. Thus, while conveying the temporal wants in one hand, we held a medicine for the soul in the other. First relieve a soldier's bodily wants, then comfort his soul. Thanking God for the privilege of working in this glorious field, and being encouraged by the assurance that we have done something for his cause, we are determined to press forward and work diligently while this great opportunity lasts for Christian effort.

A. G. Tyng,
Geo. H. McIlvaine,
Wm. Reynolds,
S. Wycoff,
Thos. G. McCulloch, Jr.

CHICAGO COMMITTEE.

Report of the Chicago Committee of the United States Christian Commission.

Our work for the past year began on January 2d, when the battle-field of Murfreesboro called for delegates and supplies. Since that call forty-eight delegates have been sent, who have visited the battle-fields, camps, and hospitals, at Louisville, Nashville, Murfreesboro, Cowan Station, Bridgeport, Stevenson, Chattanooga, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Lookout, Mission Ridge, Peoria. Springfield, St. Louis, Columbus, Cairo, Corinth, Memphis, Milliken's Bend, Vicksburg, Natchez, Port Hudson, Helena, Arkansas Point, Little Rock, Lake Providence, and New Orleans. They have spent an aggregate of sixty-five months' time, and have held thousands of meetings and conversed with and distributed to many thousands of our soldiers their share of the great number of religious publications and stores included in

the general statement of the Commission. The results of this labor, as reported by these delegates and by the letters received from soldiers, have been most blessed. The incidents would fill volumes,—all proving the Commission to be honored of God and received by the brave men of our army and navy as the most powerful and efficient means of furnishing the wounded and dying, on the field and in the hospital, with the supplies which sustain and save life, and also of encouraging and upholding the hands of our earnest, faithful chaplains in their work, and in multitudes of cases saving the souls of men who have been pointed to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.

Our receipts of money during the year are, - - -		$8,182 29
Of which we have expended on the field, -	$5,806 14	
Remitted to Philadelphia for Richmond prisoners,	2,003 37	
		7,809 51
Leaving balance on hand, - - - - - -		$372 78
We have received of boxes and barrels of stores,	112, valued at	1,100 00
And purchased, - - - - - -	30, valued at	750 00
Making total of, - - -	142 valued at	1,850 00

We have distributed publications as follows:

Copies of Scriptures, - - - - - -	22,000
Copies of hymn-books, - - - - -	60,000
Copies of knapsack-books, - - - -	17,500
Copies of bound books, - - - - -	1,500
Copies of magazines and pamphlets, - - -	4,700
Copies of religious papers, - - - -	170,000
Pages of tracts, - - - - - - -	300,000

Our local work has been in the following camps and hospitals of our city: Camp Douglas, Camp Wright, City, Marine and Camp Douglas Hospitals, and Soldiers' Home, and in our rooms. In the two first and last we have held meetings during the year to the number of over five hundred, which have been attended by large numbers of soldiers, and been blessed of God to the conversion of many souls. In all of them the distribution of religious literature has been extensive, in the hospitals especially, through the chaplains. One of the interesting features of our work has been among the rebel prisoners in Camp Doug-

las, which, to the number of from six thousand to seven thousand, have been confined during a large portion of the year. The meetings among them have been blessed, and large numbers have nightly crowded to the chapel, or during the day gathered in the open air, to listen to the word of God, and many of them we hope have been changed from rebels against God to the willing subjects of King Jesus; and many give good promise of returning loyalty to our Union. As illustrating this, when our hymn-books, which have Our Flag on the covers, were first distributed, numbers refused them; but few now remain who have not become possessors of the books and flag. Often, during the meetings, numbers have signified their desire to be saved, and some have rejoiced in the knowledge of pardoned sins. We have co-operated with the Committee of Cincinnati, Louisville, Pittsburg, Detroit, Peoria, and St. Louis, in organizing and maintaining daily Union prayer-meetings and reading rooms, in Nashville, Memphis, Vicksburg, and Little Rock, whose influence has been so signally felt in the army, and for the details of which we refer to the reports of the field agents. We unite with the various branches of the Commission in thanking God for this great privilege of laboring for the brave defenders of our glorious Union.

BUFFALO COMMITTEE.

THE Army Committee of the Young Men's Christian Union respectfully present to the United States Christian Commission the following general report of their work, during the year of our Lord 1863:

During this year, the Committee have endeavored to accomplish these four objects, viz., to direct the attention of the public, in this city and its vicinity, to the aims and workings of the United States Christian Commission; to collect money and stores to aid in the accomplishment of its noble and blessed work; to send delegates to our citizen soldiers and sailors, whether in hospitals or camps, or on fields of battle; and to furnish to these same men, as far as practicable, patriotic and religious reading.

In endeavoring to attain its first object, viz., to enlist the public sympathy in behalf of the United States Christian Commission, the Committee held meetings of Christians in various churches, addressed, in behalf of the Christian Commission, by eloquent and zealous men. Six such meetings, all of them numerously attended, have been held in this city, and thirteen have been held in as many large and growing villages, in the western part of this State.

In accomplishing its second object, viz., the obtaining of money and stores, the Committee, by permission of the several pastors in whose churches the above-mentioned meetings were held, took collections of money for the purposes of the United States Christian Commission; and the Committee also, by sending out many of their circulars, and publishing short articles in various newspapers, secular and religious, have been instrumental in securing liberal and valuable donations of stores for the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors of our army and navy.

For the better accomplishment of this second object, the Committee, in May last, with the approbation of several clergymen, given by their presence and earnest words at a public meeting, urged the formation of a "Ladies' Christian Commission of Buffalo." Such an organization was made, and has proved of great service in carrying on the work of the United States Christian Commission.

In accomplishing its third object, the Committee have not been as successful as it desired and hoped. Though articles have been published in newspapers, calling for the services of pious and zealous laymen and clergymen, in the capacity of delegates; and though gentlemen, both lay and clerical, have been called on, and urged to devote themselves for a time to the work of preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to the brave defenders of our nation's life and independence, still but three delegates have gone out under their auspices.

In accomplishing their fourth object, the Committee have caused to be published and distributed amongst our soldiers and sailors, twenty-seven hundred copies of a sermon, entitled, "God in the War," and delivered, at their request, by the Rev. Dr. Smith, of this city, on the day of national thanksgiving, in August last.

They have distributed amongst the Invalid Corps, stationed at Camp Morgan, in this city, eight hundred copies of the "Christian Advocate." Since the 1st of July, they have also sent, weekly, five hundred copies of the same valuable paper to the Armies of the Cumberland and the Potomac.

The receipts and disbursements of the Committee have been as follows:

Cash received, ...		$3,361 21
Cash remitted to the Central Committee, . . .	$1,300 00	
Cash paid on account of Central Committee for delegates' expenses and publications, . . .	350 00	
Cash for local disbursements of Committee, . .	284 53	
Cash balance on hand, ...	1426 68	
		$3,361 21

Such is a general statement of the work done by the Committee during the year; and in accomplishing it, meetings of the Committee have been held, on an average, once a week. O that its results were ten times, yea a hundred times, more! What sacrifices too great to be made in behalf of the present and eternal welfare of those who have gone forth, in the cause of truth, justice, humanity, and liberty, to fight our battles for us! May God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, bless more and more abundantly, in all its workings, the United States Christian Commission!

JOHN D. HILL,
Chairman

JOHN F. ERNEST,
Secretary pro tem.

Ladies' Christian Commission, Buffalo.

GEORGE H. STUART, ESQ.,
Chairman of the United States Christian Commission.

The ladies of the Christian Commission of Buffalo, in making their report to you for publication, regret that there is so little of particular incident connected with their work. They have been too far from the fields of action, and work so entirely through the delegates of your Commission, that all items of peculiar interest are already in your possession. Of the origin

and organization of the Society there is more to relate. Established as it was but eight months ago, without a dollar in its treasury, and among a community that scarcely knew of the existence of the United States Christian Commission, it has gradually grown in strength, until the Buffalo Society finds itself a nucleus around which many valuable auxiliaries cluster from beyond the bounds of our own city.

The financial report which is added, will convey to you a better idea of the prosperity of the Society than any detail which can be given in words.

Cash collected from all sources, ...	$4,168 40
" expended for business and other items, ...	1,593 57
" sent to the Central Office, ...	1,600 00
Number of packages of stores donated to the Society, 869.	
Value of the same, ...	6,013 20½
Number of packages sent to the field, 317.	
Of these, only 201 were valued, which amounted to . . .	4,856 06

The ladies wish to add, that their interest in this work has deepened as the months have passed by; and what was done in weakness and sent forth with distrust, has been like the blessing of olden days, which returned upon the head of the giver in seven-fold measure.

INDIANAPOLIS COMMITTEE.

The Indiana branch of the United States Christian Commission was organized the last week in November, and commenced its work on the 1st of December.

During the one month, the last of the year, the first of their work, four delegates have been sent to the Army of the Cumberland, seven hundred and three dollars and eighty-four cents collected, and amongst the soldiers in camps, hospitals, and barracks in their own locality, they have distributed 1373 copies of Scriptures, 350 hymn and psalm books, 1641 knapsack books, 450 pamphlets, and 7020 pages of tracts.

The officers of this branch of the Commission are G. W.

Clippinger, President; James M. Ray, Treasurer; C. N. Todd, Corresponding Secretary, and L. H. Croll, Recording Secretary.

Thus fairly launched, with the rich, populous, enterprising, fertile State of Indiana as a field of supply, and the whole army, with its hundreds of thousands of brave men, away from their homes and churches, exposed to hardship, privation, and all the hazards of war, calling for delegates, publications, and stores, the Indiana Branch cannot fail to do something, in the year upon which we now enter, worthy of the cause.

January 1st, 1864.

DETROIT COMMITTEE.

Until some months of the year now closed had passed by, the liberality of Michigan, in relief of the soldiers, had passed exclusively through other channels than that of the United States Christian Commission.

Upon the occasion of a visit of Rev. C. P. Lyford, from Convalescent Camp, near Alexandria, Va., a public meeting was held in Detroit, about the middle of June, and an army committee was formed.

In August, in compliance with an invitation, Rev. B. W. Chidlaw of Cincinnati, and Rev. A. G. McAuley of Philadelphia, addressed the citizens of Detroit, giving a new and generous impulse to the cause.

Rev. Mr. McAuley consented to extend his visit, and meetings were called in some of the principal towns through the southern part of the State. Everywhere the statements concerning the Christian Commission were warmly received and gladly responded to.

In October, by the plan of co-operation, the relations of the Detroit and other branches of the Commission to the Central Office and general work in the army, were more clearly defined.

Meanwhile the Washington Agency of the Michigan Soldiers' Relief, and the delegates in Congress from Michigan, having watched the workings of the various agencies for the benefit of our suffering men in the national service, sent home a strong

commendation of the Christian Commission, its principles of distribution, and plans and methods of working. This, of course, could not but confirm confidence, increase interest, and draw forth yet more the men and the means to carry on field operations abroad in the army.

The ladies have organized an army committee of their own, in full harmony and co-operation with that of the gentlemen, and are pursuing their work in their own local field, and for the soldiers away in the war, with a devotion, self-sacrifice, and success, seldom achieved by any other than ladies.

Besides the local appropriations and work, in relief of the wounded and sick, in St. Mary's Hospital, Detroit, and the hospital of the Detroit barracks, where wounded men from Chattanooga, in addition to whatever else Christian kindness could do, were supplied with warm clothing, in defence from the winter's severity, nine delegates have been sent to the army, two thousand three hundred dollars in cash remitted to the Central Office for the general work in the army, and two hundred and thirty-nine boxes of hospital stores, valued at one thousand dollars, furnished for the benefit of the soldiers.

This Michigan branch of the United States Christian Commission has steadily and rapidly advanced to a position of strength in the hearts of the people, very unusual, and abundant in promise of good to our noble men in the army and navy. God grant that the year now opening may witness their bountiful liberality and the good deeds of their delegates on every field of necessity and emergency, and bring upon them and their State the soldiers' blessing, and His, also, which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow.

January 1st, 1864.

NEW YORK COMMITTEE.

The United States Christian Commission, while it undertook to provide, as far as its means enabled it, for the spiritual wants of the various armies occupying inland positions on this continent, committed the supply of the armies on the sea-coast, and of the entire navy, to the New York Committee. As the field

of labor is so distinct, and the machinery by which it works so different, the Committee is preparing a brief report of its proceedings, which it will issue separately, and meanwhile will only furnish a short abstract, to be incorporated in the Report of the Commission. But while it presents a separate report, it by no means wishes to be considered as working at all independently of the parent Commission, or as engaged in a distinct work. It considers itself as auxiliary to and closely connected with the general organization, and wishes to embrace this opportunity of claiming a connection, which has contributed in large degree, to the success which has crowned its labors.

The benefits of the public recognition of the services of the Commission, and the recommendation of its delegates to the protection and facilities of the army, have inured to the New York Committee, and without at present recapitulating the action of Government, or of the commanders in the field, the Committee gratefully acknowledges the assistance that has been extended to it. The generals in command at Newbern, Norfolk, Port Royal, and New Orleans, have vied with each other in aiding the delegates of the Commission, and the officers commanding the blockading fleet have in like manner granted every facility. Government supply vessels have been directed to give passage to delegates, and forward any amount of stores and reading matter; and the liberality of Government has been imitated by the private steamers and the express agencies, which were engaged in business on the coast line of operation.

By an arrangement with the Central Board, the supply of nearly one-fourth of the war forces in the service of the Government was placed under the charge of the New York Committee.

For the distribution of religious reading and the proper division of the labors of its delegates, the New York Committee has established in its field four principal stations.

1. Norfolk, Virginia. And as Union stations drawing supplies from this point, Fortress Monroe, Portsmouth, Newport News, and Yorktown.

2. Newbern. As Union stations, Plymouth, Washington, and Beaufort.

3. Hilton Head. As Union stations, Port Royal, Morris Island, and Folly Island. Also Fernandina and St. Augus-

tine receive their supplies and delegates from this main station.

4. New Orleans. Including Port Hudson, Baton Rouge, Brashier City, and stations in Texas.

It will thus be seen that the field of this agency stretches along nearly two thousand miles of coast, and that both a most responsible and a most difficult duty has been confided to it. The distance of the field of labor and the scattered character of the forces that occupy it, have increased greatly the difficulty of economically attending to its wants, but after a little experience, and by the steady devotion to the cause of some of its active members, matters have at length been reduced to a systematic plan, which the Committee are induced to believe both economical and efficient.

The Committee have been able to send down to the field, intrusted to their care, about eighty delegates, of whom twelve were sent to the Army of the Potomac, sixteen to Portsmouth and vicinity, ten to Newbern and other points in North Carolina, nineteen to Hilton Head, Port Royal, and Fernandina, twenty to New Orleans and other points on the Lower Mississippi, and some even accompanied the army to Brownsville, in Texas. It must here be mentioned, however, that the sojourn of the delegates in the field was, by the action of this Committee, made of greater duration than has been common, generally, in the experience of the Christian Commission, and that the number that has been reported does not make a full exhibition of the amount of work accomplished. The devoted and efficient delegate in New Orleans has been there upwards of twelve months, and is only reckoned as one delegate, whereas had six been sent down, each to labor two months, the amount of work accomplished would not have been more than the result attained by this single delegate, if even it would have equalled it. Allowance must therefore be made, in estimating the efficiency of the Committee, for the length of the service of the delegates and the distant field of their labor. The difficulties inherent in the portion of the country assigned to this Committee, have induced them to modify in part the arrangements made generally with the delegates by the Commission, and to a certain, but very limited extent, to allow a small compensation for the increased length of

service required. The reasons for this action are fully set forth in the following report, made by a subcommittee, which for the proper explanation of arrangement is here inserted.

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1863.

The Committee to which the propriety of adopting a system of paying the delegates of the Christian Commission was referred, respectfully report:

That they have given the subject careful and mature consideration, and feel convinced that as long as the present Christian sympathy exists which induces so many suitable pastors and laymen to volunteer their services, it would be inexpedient to make any change in the present *general* plan of the Commission. But at the same time they are also convinced, that the distance of a few of the stations from this port, and the loss of time and heavy expense entailed in travelling to and fro, make it desirable to have some more permanent arrangement with delegates going South for the summer months, and they would therefore recommend the executive committee to authorize the modification of the plan now in operation, to permit the payment of a small compensation to those delegates who agree to remain for four months at least in their field of labor.

It will evidently be impossible to send fresh delegates to our distant stations at the South after midsummer; hence the necessity of obtaining more continuous service.

The committee recommend that the rates of payment should not exceed one dollar a day, for the time actually devoted to the interests of the Commission.

(Signed) H. DYER,
NATHAN BISHOP,
ARCH. RUSSELL.

NEW YORK, May 14th, 1863.

It is unnecessary to refer here to the constant use which delegates to the battle-fields and hospitals have made of stores and articles of necessity and comfort, to be distributed among the soldiers. The principle has been the embodiment of Christianity, and has at once elevated the Christian Commission to the high position it occupies. Christian delegates, conveying religious comfort and consolation without the material appliances needed by the wounded, would have visited the camps unheeded and in vain, but delegates occupying themselves with the comforts necessary for the wounded, while they solaced the dying with the tidings of the Gospel, have had their labors doubly blessed. The New York Committee are fully aware of the happy results which have flowed from this union of the temporal and spiritual

wants of the soldier, and were only compelled by circumstances to modify it in part. They recognized the distinct character of the Bible, tract, and missionary, from that of the sanitary and soldiers' aid societies, and fully recognized the duty of uniting, as the Christian Commission in Philadelphia and elsewhere had done, the usefulness of both. But there were advantages in modifying the arrangements in the field committed to them, which a brief consideration will make apparent. Government had ready access by water communication to the army in this field, and hence there was no excuse for the Commissariat and Quartermaster's department not having on hand all the stores and appliances needed for the men in the service. And in this expectation facts have fully justified the committee, as it is believed that never were armies more adequately provided by their Government with all the comforts and necessaries which should be distributed, or could, to advantage, be used by the men. The immense interior line in the army, and the difficulty of transporting provisions and the munitions of war, rendered it indispensable for the efficient working of the General Commission in the inland portions of the country, that it should be able to furnish its delegates with an abundant supply of stores to supplement those provided by Government. The New York Committee, finding that the amount of stores needed for its delegates was not great, and that the Sanitary Commission had ample supplies of what was required by our delegates, and anxious also to avoid all appearance of opposition, were induced to propose an arrangement which would enable the delegates of the Christian Commission to make use of all stores required, and at the same time harmonize any apparent conflict between the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. Hence the motive that led to correspondence and subsequent agreement to hand over to the Sanitary Commission all the stores received by the New York Committee, on condition that the requisition of the delegates on the field should be met by the agents of the Sanitary Commission.

In making this agreement, however, with the Sanitary Commission, hardly was sufficient consideration given to the voluntary action of the friends of the Christian Commission throughout the sections of country assigned to the New York Committee. The amount of stores received in New York never was great,

but it was found that those interested in the work preferred attaching themselves directly to the parent Commission in Philadelphia, to becoming auxiliary to Committee; and the consequence has been, that the field from which we draw our supplies has become very much reduced. Brooklyn, Buffalo, Troy, and Rochester have, as well as many other cities, attached themselves directly to the Commission in Philadelphia, thus contracting the area of supply greatly. At present, by a recent understanding with the Commission through Mr. Stuart, it is agreed that the New York Committee shall confine its collections chiefly to the city and river counties of the State, and cease to solicit either funds or donations of stores from other quarters.

The funds collected by the New York Committee have, since its organization till the 1st of March, 1864, amounted to $62,751 39. The larger part of this amount has been contributed directly to the office in New York, the result either of personal application or of collections made by churches interested in the work. Part has been sent from distant stations, the missionaries in China and Siam having made remittances, and several amounts have been received from California, with large contributions from Nevada.

A financial statement of the expenditure of the Committee has already been furnished for this report, but a fuller and more detailed amount of all the moneys expended will be embraced in the report about to be published in New York.

In this connection it may be proper to state, that this branch of the Christian Commission, being more directly on the Southern seaboard, has been called upon largely to relieve the necessities, and furnish reading matter for those men who have recently escaped from the house of bondage; in fact almost all the colored troops are in this field. No difference in the men who wear the United States uniform is recognized, except in modifying the nature of the publications sent to meet more accurately the wants of those for whose use they are destined. The Committee have forwarded large numbers of books, and primers, and first lessons in arithmetic, for the use of the colored troops, and thousands have learned to read, who were untaught and would have remained in ignorance, if in the former state of slavery.

At the suggestion of both officers and men, the number and

proportion of newspapers has been steadily increased, and at present large numbers of weekly religious papers are supplied to the army. The various hospitals and encampments in and around New York have been regularly supplied with copies of the Scriptures and fresh weekly religious reading matter, and the various monthly publications, such as the American Messenger and Parish Visitor, are sent in large numbers. The forts around New York, to some of which delegates have been sent, and to all of which reading matter has been furnished, are,

FORTS.—Fort Richmond, Fort Hamilton, Fort Sandy Hook, Fort Columbus.

CAMPS.—Camp Sprague, Staten Island; Riker's Island; Park Barracks.

HOSPITALS.—De Camp, David's Island; McDougall, Fort Schuyler; Newark, New Jersey; Bedloe's Island; Central Park; Ladies' Home, Fifteenth Street; Lovell.

A regular supply has been kept at the navy-yard, in Brooklyn, and most of the time an agent has been employed to make up and place on board the navy supply-vessels, bound for the blockading squadron, packages of new and suitable reading matter, for the crews on the coast. When it is remembered that the whole force engaged in blockading the long line of coast, from Fortress Monroe to the mouth of the Rio Grande, is without a single chaplain, the advantage of providing for a full supply of religious reading matter, as well as the occasional services of a Christian delegate, can be appreciated.

The number of publications sent by the New York Committee, during the past year, is as follows

	COPIES.
Weekly religious newspapers,	487,180
Monthly " " . . .	537,450
Tracts, ...	1,953,000
Small books prepared for soldiers and seamen, ...	143,267
Bound volumes for hospitals and libraries,	7,633
Hymn-books, ...	32,458
Bibles and Testaments, ...	29,870
Total number of publications distributed,	3,194,707

The value of the above (not including Bibles, prayer-books and miscellaneous matter donated, to the amount of at least $6000), ...	$21,340

It is gratifying to the Committee to be able to state, that the work in which it has been engaged has met with the cordial support of the various commanders in the field, and been, as they believe, largely blessed to the soldier and the sailor. There will be appended to the report about to be published, for local distribution among the contributors to the New York agency, full extracts from a large correspondence, showing the usefulness of the work, and its kind appreciation both by those in authority and the class it has aimed to benefit. At present, it has been deemed expedient only to present this brief outline of the work, and to notice, in greater detail, some particulars in which the New York Committee have been forced to deviate from the plan followed by the parent Commission. In the future, the Committee trust in the providence of God to be able to continue the work intrusted to it with equal and, in some particulars, greater efficiency. It has gained much experience, and as the result will be able to direct its efforts more economically and efficiently, to promote the great cause committed to it,—the spreading of the Gospel of Christ among the hundreds of thousands now battling for the rights of their country on the Southern coast. The responsibility is great, and should be approached in humble reliance upon the sustaining power of that God in whose name we lift up our banners. The necessity of prompt action is also apparent. A few months more may see many, now presenting a bold front to the enemy, either prostrated by disease or cut down in the strife of battle,—

"The weary to rest and the wounded to die."

And before this Committee is called upon to make another annual report, the mighty hosts which occupy so many stations on the coast may all be separated and restored to their wonted homes, and the seedtime which the present organization presents may be lost forever.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

LIST OF STATIONS AT THE FRONT IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

	FIRST CORPS.	SECOND CORPS.	THIRD CORPS.	FIFTH CORPS.	SIXTH CORPS.	CAVALRY CORPS.	RESERVE ARTIL.
1st Division.	Culpeper Station, Five Delegates, Head Quarters. Mr. Williams, Field Agent.	Supplied from Mountain Run Station. Detached Delegate in 4th Brigade.	Bullock Station, Two Delegates.	Well supplied with Chaplains.	Supplied with Chaplains.	Supplied from Culpeper and S. Pike Stations.	River Station, Three Delegates.
2d Division.	Sperryville Pike Station, Two Delegates.	Cole Hill Station, Three Delegates.	Hope Station, Three Delegates.	Union Station, Two Delegates.	——— Station, Two Delegates.	Warren Green Station, Three Delegates.	Cedar Station, Three Delegates.
3d Division.	Supplied from Culpeper Station. Also, from Pine Hill.	Supplied from Cole Hill. Detached Delegates in 2d Brigade.	Supplied from Brandy. Detached Delegates in 2d Brigade.	—— Station, Two Delegates.	Well supplied with Chaplains.	Supplied from Cole Hill.	Reserve Artillery has no *divisions*, properly speaking. We have two stations in them, one in the Light, and one in the Heavy Batteries.
Art. Brigade, attached, &c.	Pine Hill Station, Two Delegates.	Mountain Run Station, Three Delegates.	Supplied with preaching and papers from Brandy.	Partly supplied from Union and —— Stations.	Unsupplied by us. Several Chaplains within a few rods of the Artil'y camp.	No Artillery attached.	
Total.	3 Stations, 9 Delgs.	2 Stations, 8 Delgs.	2 Stations, 6 Delgs.	2 Stations, 4 Delgs.	1 Station, 2 Delgs.	1 Station, 3 Delgs.	2 Stat. 6 Delgs.

Brandy Station is not included in this table. It is the business centre, and on Sunday a number of preaching appointments around it are filled by those there on their way to or from the out-stations.

The number of delegates would be increased from six to eight if the stations were all fully supplied.

ARMY STATIONS.

THE foregoing list of stations includes only those at the front in the Army of the Potomac in winter quarters. There are ten more connected with this one of our national armies, including Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, Alexandria, Annapolis, and the great Artillery, Cavalry, Parole, and Convalescent Camps. And these all form but one field out of many occupied by the vast field organization of the Christian Commission.

Artillery Reserve Station No. 2, with its Bible class, is a fair specimen of the many comprised in this system of stations.

Artillery Reserve Station No. 2, and its Bible Class.

Many Christian Commission stations in the army have become as springs in the desert to the soldiers. The rock has been smitten, and the waters of life have gushed out to assuage the thirst which two years and more of absence from home and church-altars has brought upon them. They have drank deeply and sweetly, and now, as they shall go forth, the health and life-giving current shall follow them through all marches and battles, and enable them to triumph even in death.

Usually three delegates are placed at a station, a chapel-tent is pitched, eighteen by thirty feet in size, a tent also for the delegates to live in, and a tent for stores. Of these there are fifteen in the army, as it is now at rest in winter quarters, at as many different army centres. One such station was established in the camp of the Artillery Reserves, soon followed by another, distinguished respectively as Artillery Reserve Station No. 1, and Artillery Reserve Station No. 2.

The three delegates placed at No. 2, were Rev. J. B. Davis of Bridesburg, Pa., Rev. G. S. Stockwell of Springfield, Mass., and Mr. Johnston Calhoun of Beaver County, Pa.

Greatly as it had been all along needed, this station could not

be established until there were men to take it, and conduct its various operations for the benefit of the soldiers. And when the tents were pitched, the ground was saturated by the heavy rains that had fallen. There were no seats in the chapel. The soldiers were eager and came in crowds to the tent. The coming and going made it very muddy. In the first meeting about seventy-five men stood in the mud as eager listeners to Rev. Mr. Davis, the preacher, who also stood in the mud to preach. It was the first sermon many of them had heard since enlisting, two years ago or more, and was the means of awakening several of the hearers, who subsequently were clearly, hopefully converted to God. This was Saturday. On Sabbath there were two services. The commander of the Brigade and other officers came to the morning service. The evening service was still more largely attended and deeply impressive, all muddy and uncomfortable as it was. What would our people at home say to going out and standing through service after service in the mud? How many hearers would our ministers have in such a place? The eager and noble Reserves soon mended this matter. Procuring a team, they brought boughs of evergreens from the banks of the famous Rappahannock, and spread an ample and luxurious carpet of green from the primitive loom of nature, making the chapel comfortable and cheerful. A tall pole they brought also, and set it up with the United States Christian Commission chapel flag waving from its top. Lumber soon came; seats were made neatly, and compactly arranged to accommodate the largest possible number. Next, a platform for the preachers, and shelves at the sides for books, papers, and tracts.

Step by step, with this work of preparation, the work of God went forward. Every available place was occupied at each service, and every evening some sought personal, private instruction and guidance in the way of life after the public service was closed. Not only every seat would be occupied, but the platform served as a seat for as many as could crowd together upon its sides. Soon information reached us that about twenty decided conversions—two Romanists were of the number—had occurred, and the work increasing every day. And again and again came the joyous news of its progress,—a progress una-

bated now as I write. The delegates found there, first of all, a little band of seven young Christian men, who had maintained a prayer-meeting through all the long months of their hard marches and battles since their enlistment soon after the war began. The batteries have no chaplains. The delight of the seven may be,—no, it cannot well be,—imagined when the delegates came to them.

Another prayer-meeting they found, also, in the Eleventh Battery, already signalized by five or six decided joyous conversions.

A remarkable feature of the station is its Bible class, numbering forty-six private soldiers. Twenty of these, together with Mr. Calhoun, the delegate, left as its leader, when Rev. Mr. Davis was obliged to return to his pastoral duties at home, are given in the accompanying picture so faithfully that their friends at home, if familiar with their appearance in uniform, will readily distinguish them. Some of the number have already become convinced, that when the sword of war is laid down and peaceful union achieved, it will be their duty to take up the sword of the spirit as preachers of the Gospel. Two or more of them, though privates in the service, are college graduates, and one of these has already heard the glad news from his home that his wife, touched by his letters, has also yielded to God and enlisted to serve with him under the Captain of salvation. (See Frontispiece.)

The names of the forty-six are as follows:

Mr. Calhoun, *Teacher*,	George Poulas,
James Drake,	David R. Patrick,
Ellis F. Marsh,	Wm. Pierce,
Thos. Ellis,	Terence Cadden,
George Perkins,	Daniel High,
Frank Jewell,	Jonathan G. Hand,
John R. Sutton,	John H. Van Nett,
Geo. H. Brown,	Robert Johnson,
Thomas Crane,	Albert T. Freeman,
Benjamin Hill,	Daniel S. Cripps,
Wm. Johnson,	Lafayette Moore,
George W. Smith,	Frank Rombach,

James J. Dolliver,
George West,
John T. Boyd,
Joseph Abbott,
Geo. E. Fuller,
Wm. Conger,
William Ashere,
William Biggs,
James S. Oliver,

George Hill,
Jacob Shank,

Lawrence Healy,
John Eaker,
Joseph K. Gates,
John M. McDonald,
Wm. M. Dolliver,
Joseph C. Scott,
F. S. Martin,
Robert S. Eskildson,
Frank Sprague,
Newton Whims,
Joseph Calhoun,
C. H. Miller.

General Howard's "Beau Ideal" of a Christian Commission Station in the Army of the Cumberland.

Extract from General Howard's Letter.

Lookout Valley, Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
March 8, 1864.

* * * * *

"We have here just my 'beau ideal' of a station. Soldiers are coming and going for books, papers, tracts, or conversations. The delegates constantly visit the hospitals and regiments, and are more than welcome. Last Sunday a delegate preached to my provost guard, orderlies, officers on my staff, and our servants, at these headquarters, at 5 P. M. This was a Rev. Mr. Smith, of Indiana. You never saw a more orderly and attentive audience. As they stood before and on either side, with hats off, eagerly listening to his words about Christ, many soldiers from the neighboring regiments came voluntarily and stood attentively in the background. I could not help praying and wishing for a special influence of the blessed Spirit among those men."

THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

Having made the circuit of the principal army fields and home auxiliaries of the United States Christian Commission, our view would yet be far from complete should we fail of a glance at the general headquarters in Philadelphia. Observe, first, the locality, full of significance. It is in the very heart of commerce and trade. Bank Street leads from Chestnut Street to Market, midway between Second and Third. Here, at No. 11, up stairs, in the Commercial Buildings of Stuart & Brother, importers of drygoods, are the rooms of the Central Office. Above and below, on the north and the south, in front and in rear, the business of buying and selling for gain engrosses all hearts and occupies every foot of the space, far and near, from cellar to garret. A stone's throw to the west, in Third Street, bankers and brokers have sway. As far east is Second Street, crowded with shops. At no greater distance north, in Market Street, wholesale houses bear rule. South, is Chestnut Street, crossed by Third, where four ways meet, overcrowded with jostling multitudes from all other streets, the representatives of all lines of business, all nationalities, all shades of complexion in political creed, and all grades of position in the social structure, all eagerly driving their vocation or seeking the news. Here, also, cluster newspaper, telegraph, and express offices; whilst not far away the thrones of the railway kings and corporations have their seat in their palaces of hewn stone. Here it is, surrounded by the clatter of traffic, the fever of greenbacks and gold, the rush of hurrying feet, the din of rattling wheels, the click, click, click of the news, the clangor of the press, the babel of tongues, all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them in a focus! A strange place, indeed, for the headquarters of a great Christian agency, having for its motto, "Freely receive, freely give." Yet here, indeed, it is, and here it lives and prospers. It is not overlooked, crowded out, forgotten, or despised; but respected, aided, built up, and fed by all around it,—a living and glorious tribute of the business world to Christianity and patriotism! How it came to be here, is one of the significant things of the amazing history of Christian beneficence in this war. Nor is the Central Office in this blessed sig-

nificance alone; but part and parcel, share and share alike, with the branch offices in Baltimore, Pittsburg, and Cincinnati, the treasurer's office in Philadelphia, and in principle, if not in circumstantial detail, with many other offices embraced in the organization throughout the whole country.

The executive head of the Commission was too full of his own business to stay abroad and meet the administrative necessities of such an agency. So he opened his doors, brought it home, and gave it quarters, as he gives it his personal services, free,—precisely what is done, also, by the treasurer, at the Western Bank, of which he is president, for the burden of his responsible work, and by the several chief officers of the branches mentioned above.

These things are stated in no spirit of vain-glory; but because they are true, and truly characteristic of the unbounded beneficence called forth by the war, and fairly illustrative of the singular economy of the administration of affairs throughout all the departments and operations of the United States Christian Commission.

Pendant from a cord stretched from side to side across Bank Street at No. 11, is the broad banner of the Christian Commission, which, in the language of Colonel Moore, "is simply the banner of our country consecrated to God."

Ascending the stairway, a spacious room opens out, one hundred and thirty feet long and thirty feet wide, with large windows at each end and skylight in the centre. One end, walled off by desk and counter, is used as an office, and occupied by five or six busy men at their tables and desks. The other end of the room is used for hospital stores and for receiving, repacking, marking, and shipping boxes of goods for the relief and benefit of suffering soldiers. The centre is used for newspapers, books, stationery, and various publications, which are here opened out, examined, arranged, and repacked for shipment to fill orders. The narrow circuit of these rooms, like the wide circuit of the various armies and committees, will reveal the nature of the United States Christian Commission as a national agency between the home, the church, the press, and the people, on the one hand, and the men away in the war on the other. Stores prepared by loving hands, family papers, and delegates warm

from the fireside, here on their way to the army, under the auspices of the Commission, show its agency between the home and the soldiers. Christian ministers and laymen of various churches on their way, ready in the apostolic spirit to become all things and suffer all things, if they can only win soldiers to Jesus, and religious reading, the Scriptures above all, here to be sent forth by the Commission, exhibit its character as an agency between the church and the soldiers. Its agency between the press and the soldiers is doubly represented, first by an enormous amount of various publications, fresh from the press, in transitu for the men in the field, and, second, by a system of supplying interesting facts concerning the soldiers for home circulation through the papers.

All these things, and many more besides, reveal the Commission as the people's agency for reaching the soldiers with their good gifts and good will,—gloriously, too, if we reflect that, in the yearly aggregate, they have swelled in value to about a million of dollars.

Letters written home, messages brought, mementos transmitted, facts made known, and, above all, the fire of the work brought from the blazing altars in the field by delegates returning, to be kindled on the altars of household and church, delegates daily reporting at the Central Office, amply illustrate the agency of the Commission between the men in the field and the people and church at home.

Observe, here on the left are library cases and library books. The cases open in the centre upon strong strap-hinges; a box when closed fastened by hasp and padlock, a case of shelves when standing open on end. The books bound in flexible oil-cloth, light, compact, impervious to water. Books and case admirably suited to the camp, and the books, if possible, even better adapted to the heart and life of the soldier.

On the right, family papers by thousands. On the left again, note paper and envelopes with printed motto, from the beak of a carrier dove, "The Christian Commission sends this as the soldier's message, Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings," for use on the free writing-tables of all stations in the field, and for free distribution, to promote correspondence with home. On the right again, in boxes piled up, condensed milk, shirts, draw-

ers, socks, condensed beef, farina, cornstarch, dried fruit, pickles, canned fruits, jellies, and jams, and other comforts, and clothing, with blankets, all designed for the field. Returning, here on the left see this long counter against the wall, with its orderly piles of knapsack-books, in many styles of binding, with winning titles, all intended to find happy lodgment in the hearts as well as the knapsacks of the soldiers, to cheer them and strengthen them for the marches and battles of the war for the country, and for holy conflicts and conquests for the King and kingdom eternal.

Most precious of all, here, in boxes, fresh from the American Bible Society—which, though issuing seven thousand copies a day, is unable to keep pace with the demand—are the Sacred Scriptures, in readiness for immediate transmission to the various fields from whence orders have come.

Passing now within the line of separation between storeroom and office, one or two things only may be brought to your notice, as examples of many in which the nature of the Commission is illustrated, and the order, efficiency, and economy of its arrangements are blended.

Observe this case with its numerous pigeon-holes for envelopes. Each pigeon-hole, as you see by the printed address on the envelopes they contain, represents a newspaper. Sixty papers in all are thus represented. This is part of a system for supplying these papers with facts and incidents from the ample correspondence of the Commission. When a letter received contains anything worthy of general publicity, it is copied in shape for publication, transferred for preservation and record to a book by a copying press, set up and printed in "slips," struck off in numbers sufficient to send one slip to each paper, and sent off simultaneously to all. By this system the readers of the whole sixty different papers may have the same things at the same time from them all. This admirable system is under the management of Mr. J. Macfarland.

Here is another case with a full set of blanks for the entire system of reporting, and here the books in which complete records are preserved of all that comes in and all that goes out, with day, date, and names in all cases. Scrap-books, too, one set for circulars, another for newspaper articles, and another for

bills, and in short a complete system of books for everything, so arranged that an account of stewardship can be given, in any and all cases, with perfect accuracy.

In dismissing this matter, a glance of comparison is invited between what has here been seen represented, and the expense of it all for the year, as it may be gathered from the full and discriminating account of the Treasurer, given in its proper place.

Take, on the one hand, all these things, the ample, excellent room occupied, the many busy hands employed, the large amount of money received and paid out, the vast value and bulk of the year's aggregate of stores and publications, received and transmitted, or purchased and shipped, the extensive correspondence carried on, the boundlessness of both the field of supply at home and the field of work in the army, together with the perfect system and order preserved in and through all; and on the other hand, take the amazingly small amounts expended in salaries, agencies, rents and all; place the two side by side, and the comparison cannot fail to produce wonder and astonishment.

Glance again from these two things to a third, the aggregate of the year,—the extent, preciousness, and value of the work done in the Army of the Potomac, the Army of the Cumberland, the Army of the Ohio, the Army of the Tennessee, and others, and on the great battle-fields, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and the rest, and in the camps and hospitals; the many lives saved, and souls converted to God, the hearts of the soldiers cheered and made strong, the homes gladdened and comforted, all by means of the work here represented, at an expense so amazingly small, and wonder and astonishment must be changed into gratitude to God and gladness of heart for such great and beneficent results, by an agency, which, in expending so little, has accomplished so much.

SELECTIONS

OF

PAPERS, INCIDENTS, AND LETTERS.

CONTRIBUTION OF MARY TALBOT SORLY, THROUGH THE PRESIDENT.

LETTER, ADDRESSED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

January 29, 1863.

DEAR PRESIDENT:

I hope you will pardon me for troubling you. Ohio is my native State, and I so much wish to send a trifle in the shape of a £5 Bank of England note, to buy Bibles for the poor, wounded soldiers of the North, which I hope they may read.

Yours, very respectfully,

MARY TALBOT SORLY,

Fircliff, Darby Dale, Derbyshire, England.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN TO MR. STUART.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON,
March 21, 1863.

MY DEAR SIR:

In accordance with the desire of the writer, I have the honor, by direction of the President, to send you the inclosed remittance, to be devoted to the purpose indicated in the letter accompanying.

Yours, very truly,

JOHN HAY,

Asst. Private Sec'y.

GEO. H. STUART, ESQ.

THE "POCAHONTAS" PAPERS.

THE following letter and the document accompanying, were addressed to Jos. Patterson, Esq., Treasurer of the United States

Christian Commission, by a commander in the navy. With the letter came $44 from the officers, and $101 50 from the crew of the "Pocahontas," and a long "roll of honor" of the contributors, which was duly published in the weekly acknowledgments of the Commission. Contributions are also flowing in from many regiments in camp, to aid the good work of the Commission. When the noble men in our army and navy are manifesting such desire for Christian effort on their own behalf, and on behalf of their comrades, is it not time for those at home to enlarge and redouble their efforts?

U. S. Steamer Pocahontas, off Mobile, Ala.,
April 24, 1863.

It is with grateful pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of the package containing Testaments and Christian papers, which I distributed among the crew of this ship on Sunday last, and I feel sure it will be gratifying to you to hear that they are attentively read by the men, who appear (many of them) to feel great interest in the Society, for its continuance and support.

God grant that the seed you have sown among our little community on board this ship may have fallen on good ground, and may bring forth much fruit.

On Monday, a meeting was organized and held on the deck by the crew; the minutes of which, together with the proceeds of contributions, have been given to me to transmit, which I feel much pride and pleasure in doing. The surplus inclosed has been contributed by two officers.

This meeting was a voluntary act of the crew. My sanction to hold it was asked only, and obtained. It was unattended and uninfluenced by myself, or any other officer.

With great respect, yours truly,

Wm. M. Gamble,
Commanding U. S. S. Pocahontas.

U. S. Steamer Pocahontas, off Mobile, Ala.,
April 26, 1863.

By permission of our worthy captain, Lieut. Com. Wm. M. Gamble, a meeting was held on board this ship, for the purpose of aiding the United States Christian Commission. The meeting having been called to order, the following officers were

elected: Charles D. Humphrey, Chairman; Richard Howard, Vice-President; William White, Secretary.

The objects of the meeting having been explained by the Chairman, on the motion of the Secretary, Henry A. Meyenborg was introduced, and delivered the following address:

"The objects of the meeting having been fully explained by our worthy Chairman, I would call your attention to those papers distributed amongst us on Sunday last. In reading those papers you no doubt noticed the proceedings of a meeting held in the Musical Hall, in New York, and certainly must have derived pleasure to see that our military chieftains, General Winfield Scott, General Burnside, and other distinguished gentlemen of military and civil life, have yet some time left to care for the wants of those gallant men, of whom our army and navy consist. Noble as such great undertakings are, they certainly must fail unless firmly supported, as the expenses are immense. That those papers, pamphlets, &c., have done a great deal of good not one of us can deny; and allow me to add, that he who would dispute this is the enemy of morality and truth, and where the jurisdiction of the law of morality and truth is denied, there all laws and rules, civil and military, are in vain, and demoralization is at the threshold.

"An association formed upon principles that are permanent and uniform in the hearts of all men who are for truth and justice, the pillars upon which our Constitution rests, asks you to contribute, however little it may be, to aid this work for the benefit of our friends in the army and navy, and those who suffer from sickness or wounds in the hospitals. To such those papers will be welcome indeed; and, in asking you to contribute your share, I do not wish to be understood that I assume to beg of you to contribute. No. Whether or not to do this, let every man ask his own conscience; but I certainly have a right to add, that he who would even pause for one moment to aid an undertaking so noble, would also refuse twenty-five cents to the wounded soldier begging for bread or seeking for shelter against wind and storm; and who knows if those papers are not often the only bread for the wounded and sick in hospitals?

"I shall say no more, but only ask you to consider, whatever your donation may be, it is for those who fight for the Union

and Constitution, a Constitution so wisely contrived, so strongly raised, and so highly finished, that it is hard to speak with that praise of it which is justly and severely its due.

"Let us, my friends, always endeavor to demonstrate the elegant principles of that instrument and how dear it is to us, through a cheerful and harmonious concurrence in all noble undertakings which tend to cherish those who suffer from wounds received in defence of their country. Let us always endeavor to sustain, to repair, to beautify the charter of liberty, which solemn charge is intrusted to all those who march or sail under the American flag. The protection of American liberty is a duty which they owe to themselves who enjoy it, to our ancestors who fought for it, and to your posterity who will claim it at your hands, this, the best birthright and noblest inheritance of mankind, and who will bear a grateful remembrance to those who never stood back when called upon to cherish and protect those when they suffered in lonesome hospitals."

A motion having been made to receive the names of those who wished to contribute, the following came forward and subscribed:

Henry A. Meyenborg,	$3 00	John Reed,	$2 00
Richard Howard,	5 00	Morris McCarty,	2 00
Charles D. Humphrey,	3 00	John Kelly,	1 00
William White,	5 00	Robert T. Carter,	2 00
John W. Britton,	3 00	William Garner,	2 00
James J. Donohue,	5 00	John Clark,	5 00
William George,	5 00	Henry Korner,	2 00
John Atkin,	3 00	Richard Thompson,	2 50
Henry Seymour,	5 00	Charles D. Margerum,	5 00
Peter Smith,	2 00	Roger McGrath,	3 00
Warren Kimball,	5 00	James Huckins,	2 00
Peter C. Collins,	5 00	John B. Sullivan,	2 00
Arthur Brock,	3 00	Francis Comte,	1 00
Dean S. Sears,	5 00	George Law,	5 00
Thomas S. Smith,	2 00	John Brooks,	1 00
William Miles,	2 00		
Gustavus Greenhalgh,	3 00	Total,	$101 50

CHARLES D. HUMPHREY,
Chairman.

WILLIAM WHITE,
Secretary.

Rev. J. Wilson Ward, Jr., at Culpeper Court-house.

"O! for a drink of tea."

Once, when I had distributed all my store of tea among the sick and wounded cavalrymen, just as I was going away empty-handed, I heard a voice asking if I had any more tea. "No," I said, "it is all gone." "O, I did want some," he replied. "I would give five dollars for a drink of tea!" I could not resist an appeal so urgent. I returned to the store-room, where, fortunately, I found a new supply, and, coming back, gave him all he wanted. These *little* things are remembered and treasured up.

Human Sympathy.

Says a delegate: "The poor fellows would frequently cry like children, while I talked with them and ministered unto them. Most of them are having a pretty hard time in defending our Union for us, and they crave sympathy, they hunger for it; and therefore they weep when the delegate of the Christian Commission comes and takes hold of their hand, and sits down and talks with them about home and loved ones."

Hospital Work.

The hospital generally makes men tender and impressible to Divine truth. Its effect on the delegate who labors there is salutary and strengthening. To see the various phases of religious feeling and experience, and to administer admonition, consolation, direction and instruction, are the solemn things of the soul, and judgment and eternity must make their mark upon the Christian who moves and labors in the midst of such an atmosphere. One delegate writes of a West Tennessee man, whose home had been burned by the Southerners for his refusal to take the oath of allegiance, and whose subsequent enlistment in our army had ended in imprisonment at Belle Isle. In all these trials his hold upon Christ had not slackened. It remained firm, immovable. Says the delegate, "*It strengthened my own grasp to see him cling!*"

Lodging a Lieutenant-Governor.

The same delegate records, that an intelligent-seeming man, from Vermont, spent the night with them at Warrenton, in

search of his sick son, who was a captain. Before he left, they found that they had been entertaining the Lieutenant-Governor of the State of Vermont. He was very grateful, and said that he would speak a good word for the Commission when he returned home.

To this delegate's report the statement should be added, to complete the record, that the Lieutenant-Governor has been as good as his word; for besides all he may have said and done elsewhere and in other ways, he prepared the way for one of the noblest demonstrations Vermont has made for the United States Christian Commission, and aided in it.

The Christian Captain.

Rev. H. Houston, of Maine, laboring in the Army of the Potomac (August and September, 1863), speaks of a pious captain, formerly a preacher, who aided greatly in the work of distributing papers and tracts, and other good reading matter. He came himself several times for matter to circulate among his men, until he was ashamed of the frequency of his calls, and sent a soldier for a number of Testaments, very much needed, to supply each of his men with a copy. This captain often acted the part of chaplain to the regiment. The Christian Commission answered his demands with the generous supplies that had been furnished them.

Strangers Entertained.

The accommodations of the Commission were freely used by friends visiting the army on sorrowful errands, seeking sick and dead relations. The Rev. Mr. Houston speaks of two women who were lodged in the Commission's tent, who would have been compelled to remain out all night but for these accommodations, so freely offered. Early the next morning, one of these poor stricken ones arrived just in time to see the burial service performed over the remains of her deceased son. The other found her husband recovering.

Pentecostal Baptism of a New Station.

Rev. W. L. Tisdale, of New York, writes from the station, in

the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac.

"This is a new station. I preached the first sermon here. The chapel was crowded, and also the space for twenty or thirty feet around the door. From that day to this, very stormy weather excepted, the chapel has been crowded at every service. The first time opportunity was given, eight or ten men expressed desire for the prayers of Christians in their behalf; and every time since, as many have embraced each opportunity. Sometimes twenty, and one evening twenty-five, asked prayers.

"I can hardly tell the number of conversions in the brigade since we came; but from all I can learn, there have been, during the four weeks since the station was started, several hundred led to serious reflection, and about one hundred converted and reclaimed."

A Discouraged Chaplain Encouraged.

"The brigade has one chaplain. I am told he was very much disheartened, and had thought seriously of resigning. When, however, the men began to seek Christ, he began to work with new courage. His chapel, built by the soldiers, with roof and stove furnished by the Christian Commission, became a Bethel to his men and a glad place to his own soul."—*From the same.*

The Drummer-Boy and his Ten.

"In our first or second meeting at this new station, a drummer-boy of the 146th New York Volunteers was deeply impressed, began to cry to God for mercy and salvation, and soon came happily into the light. At once he began praying specially for a young friend. He, too, was converted to God. Then the two united their prayers for a third, who was soon won to Jesus. They all joined in prayer for a fourth one of their comrades successfully, and the four for a fifth; and so they kept on until now the drummer-boy tells me that ten of their company are already happy in the love of Christ and hope of heaven newly found."—*From the same.*

The Coverless Bible Found, and Salvation Found by It.

A fine young man of the 140th New York Volunteers says that his parents and some of his brothers and sisters are pious;

but he himself never would read the Bible,—could not remember that he had ever read a chapter in it till last fall. When General Meade fell back before Lee, near Warrenton he found a Bible, lost or thrown away, with its cover gone, and thought he would read it. He was soon affected by its truth. His profanity had been awful, and his temper ungovernable. When he came to this neighborhood he attended the meetings at our chapel, and soon sought and found the Saviour. He appears to be a true Christian. His temper is subdued; he prays instead of swearing, and the change of his heart is so great that it is an astonishment to himself. What a joy must this be to the praying home-circle in his own father's house!

Who being Dead Yet Speaketh.

Rev. A. B. Russell, of Maine, gives the following amongst other interesting incidents:

"A young man, H. G. M——, of the Sixteenth Massachusetts, related some remarkable circumstances of his life. In his first public remarks as a Christian convert, he said, 'I enjoyed religious influences at home; but early in life, while yet a mere boy, I left home and became a seafarer. Three times I have sailed round the world. I fought in the British war in China, and now I am here a soldier in the Federal army. I am a thousand miles from home.' Having got thus far, home recollections seemed to rush in upon him, his utterance choked, and, in a flood of tears, he completely broke down and stopped. The meeting went on. At the close, I presented him with a Narrative of the Last Days and Death of Captain Bate, at the Battle of Canton. Taking it, he said, 'I was with that man, and saw him when he received his mortal wound.' The Christian hero, though dead, was still speaking to his now Christian soldier, from the far side of the globe."

Sublime Resignation.

"As I entered a hospital, my attention was drawn to an elderly soldier in the first ward in a sitting posture. His appearance was patriarchal—Abrahamic. His gray locks were combed back, and fell in profusion upon his shoulders; while his countenance wore a benign expression, like one in serene repose. When I

approached him, he told briefly his tale of affliction whilst tears coursed down his face. 'When the war begun, I entered the army with my two eldest sons. I am here; they are gone. Both died in the service of the country. I was in the seven days' fight before Richmond with my two brave sons. We covered the retreat. I have suffered all the ills of camp and march, and am now disabled. I should like to go home. But if I never go home, I shall meet my friends again.' Every tone and every feature said, 'Thy will be done, O God, not mine.' I there learned a lesson of patience never to be forgotten."—*From the same.*

The Kind of Work Done at Gettysburg.

"The delegates of the Christian Commission were the first helpers on the ground after the battle. At the Second Corps Hospital, two delegates arrived on Saturday, July 4th, and several more of us arrived on Sabbath morning, July 5th. We gave ourselves to the work of distributing cordials and bread and clothing to the wounded and the dying. We gave them water, bound up their wounds, made them as comfortable as possible, and thus ministering to the bodily wants of the poor men, also pointed their souls to Christ. Soon the cry was for bread. Some of the delegates went to town and represented the need to some farmers, who had a load, and prevailed upon them to go themselves with it and see the necessity. They came, they saw, they gave it all. How grateful the hungry boys were! 'God bless you.' 'God bless the Christian Commission.' 'This is like home.' 'Oh, how good!' rang out as we passed along. Thus our work continued for days. We fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, bound up the wounds of the wounded, changed the position of the suffering, and breathed consolation to the disheartened and dying. Nor did we neglect the souls of the suffering soldiers. We reached the heart and touched the affections. We sang, we prayed, we talked at their request. We repeated these exercises from evening to evening in the tents where they would desire. They joined in the song and dropped the tear, and often responded 'Amen.' Many, I trust, were born into the kingdom on that groaning ground. Many went up to glory saying, 'Jesus,

receive my spirit.' 'Have mercy on me, a sinner.' 'Save, Lord.' We preached Christ and Him crucified; and the dying sought Christ and Him alone.

"I knew not where to begin to give the incidents of interest. They met us every hour. Officers and men, the stout-hearted and the tender boy, the convicted and the backslider, all came to our notice, and we found among them cases of absorbing interest. Among the rebels, too, we found the Christian heart, the seeking soul, the loyal man forced to fight, and the doubtful man who had chosen because he must choose or suffer. But I will not specify now. The Christian Commission is doing a great work. May God bless it till there shall be no more war in the land."—*J. E. Adams.*

He Couldn't Go Home a Sinner.

F. B. Perkins, Camp Parole, writes:

"A man came into my tent. I closed the entrance, and sat down with him on my bed. He then poured out his heart. He had been a sailor for many years, and had been a very wicked man. He had served his time (two years), and was only waiting for his papers to be made out for home. 'But,' said he, 'I'm going home again a sinner.' 'No,' said I, 'my brother, you need not go home an unpardoned sinner. Jesus is ready to save you. You need not be undecided a moment,' &c. God's spirit affected him powerfully. We kneeled together, and I tried to pray, but could not for his interruptions, as he would continually break forth with, 'O God, help me! Forgive me this once, for Christ's sake, and I will do better.' He was in an agony, and poured out his soul, with strong crying and tears, unto God. Before parting, he promised to live for Jesus, come light or come darkness. In the evening meeting, he made known his determination publicly, and in homely but earnest words related his experience. Said he: 'I am going to change, and serve God. I promised faithfully this morning that I would, and I mean to keep my word faithful.' He seems really a changed man.

Prayer-Meeting in a Graveyard near Falmouth, Va.

Two Christian soldiers of the Seventh Michigan Regiment, besides laboring in the evening meetings, sought a quiet spot in the graveyard behind the village church, where many of their comrades lay beneath the sod, and there, on a flat tombstone, they poured out their hearts before God. Soon their prayers were heard. Others joined them. Some anxious ones heard of it and attended, and in that sacred, silent spot found the Saviour. The meeting was kept up till the army moved.

The Sergeant's Experience.

The Rev. J. Wilson Ward, Jr., laboring in the Army of the Potomac, speaks enthusiastically of the interest and delight that clusters around the soldiers' prayer-meetings in his stations. The meetings at Camp Convalescent were specially solemn, and often wonderful in the degree of tender interest that marked them. The experience of the conversion of a Pennsylvania sergeant, related by himself, was very striking. Said he: "I found the Saviour ten years ago. I was proud. I didn't want to yield. The arrow of conviction rankled in my heart for six months. One morning, I went out to yoke my oxen to go and get some wood. I knew I was a sinner. I felt awfully.

"I had put the yoke upon the off ox. The other lay at a little distance chewing his cud. I did not speak to him. I simply lifted the yoke, and he got up, and bowed his head quietly and received the yoke upon his bare neck.

"Somehow the incident went to my soul. I could not forget it. It was meeting night, and I went. I thought it strange that the man of God should take for his text, 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls.'

"At once I thought of the ox and the yoke, and I said, 'That means me!' And as the preacher held up the yoke of the Gospel I came forward, bent my knee and meekly bowed my head; and O! the Saviour placed his yoke upon me, and I have worn it ever since. Truly it is as Jesus said: 'My yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'"

The Cook-House Bethel.

Rev. H. C. Howland, Windmill Point Hospital, February, 19, 1863, writes:

"The first two Sabbaths I spent here did not seem at all sacred. Last Sabbath, however, was different. The brethren of the Christian Commission kept holyday sacredly and solemnly. Leave was obtained to occupy a vacant cook-house as a place of worship. Three soldiers were kindly detailed to aid in procuring a stove, seats, &c. A carpenter made me an arm-chair, and a table was procured. With barrels sawed in two, and scantling, and hospital bedsteads, we made seats enough, and the house was ready.

"The rain, which beat upon our tent as the morning dawned, was unwelcome, and brought disappointment. We anticipated a failure. But God had in reserve for us a signal and glorious success. At 10 a. m., Brother Pitcher, a delegate from Washington, preached. Forty-five were present. I was requested to preach at 2½ p. m. Sixty were present then. In the evening the house was packed. Over two hundred were present. It was a meeting for prayer and conference; and after three hours it was difficult to close the meeting. *Fifty-one* rose to express a desire for the prayers of God's people. The Holy Spirit was there. The soldiers seemed overjoyed. Many said it was the first opportunity of attending a religious service they had enjoyed since being in the army. Many took once more a stand for God. They showed their colors in the presence of their comrades. It was a joyful day, both for the soldiers and the delegates. Thus was Sabbath-day worship inaugurated in this hospital, and in the cook-house, set apart *pro tempore* from a common to a sacred use; and it became a true Bethel, a house of God, and the gate of heaven to some souls."

Promptness on the Field.

J. D. Bugless, of Pawtucket, R. I., says, that he was the *fourth* member of the Commission on the Gettysburg field. He also says that the Commission "was in efficient operation two entire days before the Sanitary Commission or the Medical Purveyor were in any condition to offer any relief to the suffering and dying." He further says: "Its excellency (the Commis-

sion), as a relief to physical suffering, has no equal, aside from the Surgical Corps of the Army. Its excellence, in a spiritual point of view, is unapproached by anything else in the service. Its promptness and efficiency certainly were instruments of salvation, temporal and spiritual, to scores and hundreds on the Gettysburg field alone during the first two weeks succeeding the battle."

Stores in Immense Quantities Needed.

SILAS M. GIDDING, of Brooklyn, writes from the Gettysburg field: "When the people at the North hear that the Christian Commission have two hundred delegates on this field, and *two car-loads* of comforts arriving every day, for those who have perilled their lives in support of their country, they seem to think that enough has been done; but to those of the delegates who arrived the first week, our supplies and unwearied labors seemed only as a 'drop in the bucket,' so great was the suffering and want of the wounded and the dying."

Testimonies of Delegates to the Want and Worth of the Christian Commission.

IRA WALDRON, *Department of the Cumberland.* "The work of the Christian Commission is of such inestimable worth to the soldiers, that it should receive the hearty support of every Christian, not only in our own land, but in the whole world."

S. E. BRIDGMAN, *Army of the Cumberland.* "The army welcome us and are glad, yea, more than glad, to get religious reading and to be talked to about home, heaven, and God. A soldier's heart is easily reached by any one who approaches him with a warm, loving manner, and in the spirit of Christ."

REV. W. H. H. MARSH, *at Gettysburg.* "I have always thought highly of the Christian Commission; but since I have seen its practical workings among the suffering, and have been honored with the privilege of laboring as one of its delegates, I think of it with intensified interest."

REV. JOSEPH WARD, *Department of the Susquehanna* (Hagerstown). "The soldiery had lost much of their clothing in battle, and what was left was covered with blood and filth. Thus our stores of clothing were brought into use at once. The surgeons

were poorly supplied with medical stores, and we were able to supply this lack to a degree by the stimulants with which we were provided."

The Character of the Work.

JOSEPH B. IVES, *Fairfax Court-house.* "Cavalry being so different from infantry, and always liable to be called out on scouting duty, we were obliged to embrace every and any opportunity of visiting the regiments the moment it was offered. I have many a time held prayer-meetings when we expected all the time to hear the call of 'boot and saddle;' but I have never been interrupted."

The East Tennesseeans.

F. H. BOYNTON, *General Field Hospital, Murfreesboro,* says of them: "They read their Bibles 'right smart' when they had them at home; but they could only get away with their lives, and were greatly pleased when I furnished them with the bread of life."

A young man from East Tennessee very frankly told me in his peculiar way, that "he knew he had been powerfully wicked since he came into the army, but he was going to do a heap better;" and when I asked him if he would like to have me leave him a Testament, both of his hands, which were under the coverlet of the bed, were quickly withdrawn, and he took the book with that mingled look of astonishment and pleasure which we sometimes see depicted upon the face. This is the way the men receive the Gospel. They hunger and thirst for the bread of life.

Letter from Rev. Henry Powers.

"MURFREESBORO, TENNESSEE, May 26.

"The work in this army (of the Cumberland) is growing mightily on our hands. The Spirit of God is being poured out. Generals high in command, as well as multitudes of soldiers, are inquiring the way to be saved. Delegates are holding prayer-meetings and preaching services, at hospitals, in camps, and at the headquarters of Major-Generals, which in numerous cases

are attended by a thousand to fifteen hundred men; and on one occasion over five hundred rose for prayers. We have a daily Union prayer-meeting, at the office-rooms of the Christian Commission, at which there are new cases of conversion every day, and many backsliders have been reclaimed. Last Sabbath, just at this post, our delegates preached thirty-one times, and held prayer-meetings in different regiments, and the Sprit of God seemed to be present. The same glorious work is also going on at Nashville. I have not the least hesitation in saying, that if we had to-day a hundred men and sufficient supplies, in the Army of the Cumberland, the Spirit of the Lord would still far outstrip them in their most fervent efforts. The impression seems to have been made in some way—no doubt by the Holy Ghost—on the minds of all classes of men in this army, that *now* is God's accepted time for the temporal and spiritual salvation of the land. Is it not, then, time to work? Without doubt, this is, at present, the most promising field in the whole country for Christian effort."

The Earnest German.

Rev. F. B. Perkins, laboring at Camp Parole Hospital, Annapolis, Md., relates the following case of a sick German:

"I went into the ward one morning, and sat down by his bed. 'Well, how are you to-day?' 'Oh, pretty well here,' pointing to his bowels, which have been the seat of his disease. 'But O, I'm bad here!' pointing to his heart. I saw he was much affected, and wished, therefore, to see him alone. I said to him, 'Come around into my tent.' We started, but he could not wait until we reached the tent. 'Oh,' said he, 'te Good Spirit ish striving with me, but te bad spirit, he strive doo.' I gave him instruction that I thought suited to his case, and we kneeled in prayer. He burst forth in his mother tongue, so that I could not follow him, but he was in earnest, and I doubt not sincere, and God understood him. In the evening, at prayer-meeting, he kneeled again, and he seemed to forget, as he prayed, that others were around him. For some time he continued his earnest seeking, and he would daily go into the woods near by, although hardly able to walk, and taking a companion, they would pray there together. It has been very

affecting to me to hear these sounds of earnest petition, as I have walked near the place. I do not know any one who seems to be a more hopeful case."

Character of Soldiers.

REV. A. CHANDLER, *Camp Stoneman, October* 26. "We find many earnest Christian men among the soldiers. They express the most heartfelt gratitude for the religious privileges they enjoy, and when opportunity is given, they are always ready to speak and pray."

Delight in the Labor, as Testified to by the Laborers.

JAMES V. BUTLER, *Department of Cincinnati.* "Whatever I have accomplished, my own heart has certainly been wholly in the work, and I have enjoyed it! God speed the work, for it is his own."

REV. H. D. WALKER, *Abington, Massachusetts. Army of the Potomac.* "In my ministry of twenty years, I have had no such period of active and blessed work."

REV. J. P. LUDLOW, *Gettysburg General Hospital.* This delegate becoming sick was obliged to leave the work sooner than he expected. He writes: "With the work becoming daily more and more interesting, and my heart hourly linked in closer sympathy with the heroic sufferers to whom I ministered, it was hard to leave—too hard to allow me to say to many of them, 'Adieu!'"

REV. W. S. KIMBALL, *Army of the Potomac.* "I have been very much pleased with the work; and have come home with a heart flowing with sympathy for the soldiers. An intimate acquaintance with the men, in many different circumstances, has increased my love for them, and for the work of the Christian Commission among them."

MYRON A. MUNSON, *Andover student*, laboring at Camp Parole. "I call up my soul and all that is within me to bless the Lord for permitting me to participate in the noble work of the Christian Commission. Again and again I have been permitted to gather fruit almost before I had sown the seed, to communicate

benefits, and to witness the joy and enjoy the gratitude which they excited, as well as to form very precious friendships with devout and amiable men,—all these things in a camp, which has been represented to be the wickedest place on this apostate planet."

GEO. B. BUZELLE, *Falmouth.* "Being in the midst of the noise and confusion of the station for the transportation of men and supplies, we were nevertheless in the midst of our work. The wounded brought there for transportation to Aquia Creek and Washington, were sometimes kept waiting in the ambulances or laid on the open platform or on the ground close by our camp fire, which was seldom without its row of smoking kettles. To feed the hungry, worn-out men, to refresh and cheer them, to talk to them of Jesus Christ when our words seemed to coincide with the line of their own busy thoughts,—all this was a work to thank God for.

"One of the men thus lying out on the platform waiting for transportation said to me, 'Who does all this?' Perhaps I wasn't proud then of the United States Christian Commission. Some might have thought 'there's no necessity of so many organizations for helping the soldiers.' But the poor fellows who held out their old black tincups when we came around with a bucket of soup or coffee or tea, and clutched almost ravenously at the soft bread, they, I think, 'couldn't see it.'

"The prayers and singing in those cars will be remembered both by our delegates and the men themselves, who wept and sobbed aloud."

Compensation Received.

G. R. BENT, laboring at Nashville, writes: "I have bathed the burning brows of many of our brave boys, and this with other work adds to the significance of life. One man asked me to-day what compensation I got. I answered, 'The fact that you are made comfortable.' The tears started in his eyes. He grasped my hand convulsively and said, 'God bless you. Have you been nursing me here for days and nights without the hope of compensation?' 'Oh, no,' I answered, 'the word of God tells

me, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' 'Dear friend,' I continued, 'the prospect of heaven is pay enough for the present. The enjoyment of heaven through the unending cycles of eternity will more than compensate me for all I have done or can do for you and all sick soldiers, and I am paid—satisfied.' "

Testimony for the Commission.

The same, *in Army of the Potomac.* "I could not enumerate all the eulogies pronounced on the Christian Commission. Suffice it to say, that one said in my hearing, 'The Christian Commission has done more for the army than any other instrumentality which has been employed.' Another said, 'Next to God and the Bible, I love the United States Christian Commission.' Another, when told that he must die in five minutes, said, '*Raise me on my knees, that I may pray for the originators and delegates of the Christian Commission.*' "

W. F. Loomis, *Army of the Cumberland.* "The work of the Christian Commission elicits the hearty sympathy and affection of the private soldiers. Many have said, 'We know that you of the Christian Commission love us, for you come and labor with us without pay.' Our papers, tracts, and Testaments are joyfully received, with only now and then an exception. Many of the boys beg for papers as the hungry beg for bread."

Facilities Granted.

From the same. "I think the work of the Commission has the hearty co-operation of most of the commanders of corps and divisions in the Army of the Cumberland. They have frequently given their ambulances, carriages, and, in one case at least, the horse used upon the battle-field, for the use of members of the Commission. General McCook especially has been cordial, generous, and unwearied in his kindness to us, granting all we asked, and anticipating our wants and wishes. When I went to Stevenson, Alabama, to establish a station, General McCook gave me a letter to General Sheridan, asking him as a personal favor to give me all the facilities in

his power, and assuring him that the Commission were doing a noble, worthy work in the army. Of course, General Sheridan hastened with alacrity and the greatest apparent cheerfulness to meet the wishes of his commanding officer. General Davis also was very kind, saying, 'Just tell me what you wish and you shall have it.' The same is true of Generals Thomas, Negley, Crittenden, Johnson, and others. All of these were officers in command of corps or divisions. General McCook has no profanity at his headquarters. It is forbidden by his positive orders."

Reaping in Joy.

REV. THOMAS A. LEETE writes from the Christian Commission Station, Artillery Brigade, Second Corps, Army of the Potomac:

"The following is submitted in illustration of the work of the Christian Commission:

"In the light artillery there are no chaplains. No religious services of a public nature are held. Should it be so? Many a soldier has told me that he has not heard a sermon for years; in some instances for three years. The consequences are obvious: the ungodly become bold in wickedness, and professing Christians, to a lamentable extent, backslide.

"When services commenced in our brigade, five weeks since, there were not ten soldiers in the six batteries composing the brigade that stood ready to engage heartily in Christian duties. Not that among the five hundred men there were not more than ten that were aiming to lead a Christian life; but so low was the state of religion that no one felt like encouraging another. No prayer-meetings were held, and if a hymn of praise was sung there were many who would jeer and ridicule. But since the Christian Commission tent has been erected in front of the batteries, the change has been wonderful. We first sowed most plentifully the good seed of truth among the batteries and in the tents, and withal spent much time in personal conversation with the cannoneers. This, in connection with a public service in our chapel-tent each night, began to act as leaven. Serious thought was awakened, and very soon serious inquiry. The importance of prayer was urged upon professing Christians, and very soon the promise was verified, 'Ask and ye shall receive.'

"For the first two or three weeks the work was interrupted

somewhat by a movement of the batteries at the battle of Morton's Ford, and some other changes; but for the last ten days, every night, when an appointment is made for prayer or preaching, our tent is full to overflowing of earnest worshippers.

"Officers and privates have said to me again and again, 'You are doing a far greater work here than you can have any idea of.' 'We can judge better than you.' Some twenty-five or thirty hopeful conversions have occurred already. Backsliders in still larger numbers have been reclaimed, and, as yet, the work is seemingly but just begun. The interest increases with each passing day; and if, for two weeks to come, the work advances as during the past two weeks, glorious results will be witnessed. Already we can but exclaim, What hath God wrought!

"Several cases of interest have come under my observation outside the artillery, in the infantry. I have spent much time in personal conversation with the soldiers—for this I find to be the best method of getting hold of men—and everywhere I find them accessible, and not only so, they desire to converse, many of them, upon the subject of personal piety; and all that is required is, that one should take them by the hand and lead them to Christ. Several instances of this kind I have met when out for a few hours in some regiment or hospital. I think I have abundant evidence for believing that a few words spoken in the manner above described, have resulted in an entire change in the life and character. 'A word fitly spoken, how good it is!'

"My last meeting at the station was a scene I shall never forget. The warm expressions of interest in our work, and in ourselves personally, coming from the lips of converts and reclaimed ones, showed us most conclusively that our work had not been in vain. It was the blessed fulfilment of the declaration, 'They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.' One and another exclaimed, 'Where should I have been, what would have become of my poor soul, had not these brethren come and brought us the Gospel?'

"Without further particulars, this general statement illustrates the nature, necessity, and benefits of the Christian Commission. If there be 'joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth,' we may in the light of this truth read the importance of the Chris-

tian Commission enterprise. For the privilege of laboring for six weeks in this work, and for the blessed results witnessed, I feel devoutly thankful to my Redeemer."

A Soldier's Appeal for a Bible.

CAMP NEAR ROSSVILLE, GEORGIA,
March 7, 1864.

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

DEAR SIRS: By sending me a Bible, you will place me under lasting obligations to yourselves and the great and good cause for which you are laboring. I wish while serving my country to serve my God also. This is the only method I know of at present of getting a Bible. It would be a dear companion to me under my present state of mind. I have resolved to become a Christian, let the world say what it will.

With respect, I am yours,
In faith, hope, and charity,

Incidents

Noted by S. L. Holman during Service as Delegate of Christian Commission.

"Sabbath morning, dedicated our chapel-tent to the service and worship of Almighty God, preaching from Isaiah 4 : 5. At the close of service, a few Christians gathered around me to make themselves known as disciples of Christ. 'We are Christians, but have lived like heathens,' said one. 'I have not heard but one sermon since May,' said another, 'and that was from a delegate of the Christian Commission.' Oh, how glad I am of this privilege!

"After the evening service had closed, and the lights were out, a few came to me and earnestly begged the privilege of going into the tent once more for a prayer-meeting. 'I thought,' remarked one, 'I was almost the only Christian in the encampment; but I have found to-night several others, and we want to have a prayer-meeting.' 'Certainly,' said I; and a prayer-meeting they did have.

"Answer to prayer: 'I was converted at Camp Convalescent, and came here fearing I would be alone and friendless. I prayed God for the enjoyment of religious privileges, and the

next day saw the chapel-tent of the Commission going up, and now I am able to attend worship.' Another said, 'We had no place for meetings, and we used to go out among the bushes, and three or four of us would pray for ourselves and comrades; now we can pray here.'

"March 3d. After I had retired, a knock was heard, and, as my assistant opened the door, a young man asked to see the minister. I was awakened and called him to my bedside. His story was: 'I had a pious mother, who often put her hand upon my head and said, "Charles, I hope you will live to be a bishop." But I lived a wicked, sinful life, till God called my attention to your sermon last Sunday, so that I felt constrained to write down all I could remember. I came to your evening meetings, and to-night I started to seek the Lord. Do pray for me, do.' Friday evening he came, bringing a companion, to my tent, saying, 'This is our color-bearer, a dear friend; he has risen for prayers. Please pray for him.' I asked him about his own conversion, and he said it was thus: 'I took my Testament, walked out into the woods, knelt down, read, prayed, and while praying God spoke peace to my soul. I went and told my unconverted messmates about it, and asked the privilege of having daily worship in our tent. They consented, and promised to attend. I have it, and by the grace of God I mean to persevere.'

"A young man was brought under conviction at our first evening meeting. He went home and tried to drive off his convictions by playing checkers and gambling. The next evening, while listening to preaching, that checker-board was continually before his mind. Finally he determined, if God would spare him to reach his tent, he would spoil that checker-board. After meeting he went home, took out the board, and smashed it with his heel into fragments. Next evening he sought the Lord, and is now happy.

"Another said, 'I have gambled for the last time. I threw my dice into the fire. I now love my Saviour. Blessed be God.'"

A Brother Found on the Battle-field.

The following thrilling incident, from the pen of the Rev. John Hall of Dublin, is the substance of an appeal for the esta-

blishment of an orphan asylum in Ireland. Sixty thousand copies have been published on the other side of the water, and the interest attaching to it, as representing the work of the United States Christian Commission, must touch powerfully every American heart. If no other fact or result had been reached by the contributions and efforts of Christian friends, still there would be enough encouragement here and enough recompense for all that has been done or can be done:

"A father lay dying in a country parish in County Down, in Ireland. His wife, so ill herself that any one else would have been in bed, was striving vainly and weakly to comfort and 'mind' him. The poor children, four in number, stricken with fear, looked helplessly from one to another and wept. Almost without result did the worthy minister strive to touch the dying man and the desolate family with the kind words of Christ's peace. The hours passed on so until the father died, and the wife and children, for earth at least, were left 'widow and fatherless.' 'Almost orphans,' said the mother, as she looked on the children; another week, and they were so altogether. The children were alone. Then they were scattered: the youngest girl went with a good neighbor; John and Lizzie were put into new homes, and sustained by the Parish Orphan Society; and the eldest, Willie, the minister took and put to school. Sad enough separation already; but more awaited them. When John was twelve years of age he went to America. Lizzie promised to follow him soon; but her journey was a longer one to be—from earth to Christ, whom she loved. Sadly they laid her away. Her only remembrance in her brothers' hearts was her love; and far over the sea Johnny had a hymn-book of hers which she had given him when he went to the New World.

"Time passed on. William received a good education, and was led, in God's providence, to consider the subject of devoting himself to the work of the ministry. The way, however, was not clear; and when a place in an office in Cincinnati was offered to him, he felt that he could no longer be a burden on the worthy clergyman who had been so kind to him, and so he sailed to America. The earnestly formed resolution to be a minister still remained, and even now God was opening the way. His em-

ployer being a large subscriber to one of the theological seminaries, introduced William to it, and so he had all his purposes confirmed. Already the noble work of the ministry appeared close to him. Alas! not yet. War was proclaimed. The seminary was practically broken up, not a few students becoming soldiers. What should he do? He did not see his way clear to enlist, and so in suspense and doubt he waited.

"From Boston, to which a college friend had invited him, he was watching the tide of war roll over the land, when a turn was given to his plans by a visit from the president and organizer of the Christian Commission, who told the story of camp suffering, of seed sown on bloody battle-fields, of the need of delegates, and the good they did among the sick and dying. Here was work for William Henry, and ere many weeks had passed, he was in the train of the army and moving the wounded after every engagement. He was now a minister indeed in everything but the name. The Lord, his Father, had led him by a way that he knew not.

"After a sharp encounter, in which the Southern troops left many of their wounded on the field, William was engaged in relieving and ministering to them. The night was nearly spent, and all for whom there was any hope of life had been provided for, and now he turned again to the dying. A youth attracted his notice by his silent and uncomplaining endurance. 'Where are you hurt, my poor fellow?' he said, as he moistened his lips from the small canteen he carried, and turned his lamp on his pale face. 'Bullet-wound through the chest. I am dying,' was the reply. 'And what hope have you?' 'None, unless God will forgive me for his Son's sake.' 'Then you know about his Son.' 'Oh, yes, for many a year, and of late I hope I trust Him.' 'Of late?' 'Yes; I was an orphan, and when I came here I had none to care for me. The sight of sin and death about me set me to think of myself, and brought back what I learned at home. I have many a time put my soul into Jesus' care, and I trust Him now, Him only.

"There was nothing for William to do but to encourage this confidence. 'Have you any friends to whom you would like to send word? I can write for you.' 'No, no friends but in heaven. I was an orphan.' Twice he had said this. 'And I was

an orphan, too,' said William. 'I can feel for you. Had you no relations?' 'Yes, I had a brother and two sisters in Ireland; but I never wrote to them after coming here. My sister was Lizzie; here is her hymn-book;' and he took it from his bosom. He was now too weak and agitated to see the effect his words produced on his attendant, who read, by the light of his lamp, '*Given to Elizabeth Henry for good conduct.*' 'What is your name?' eagerly asked William. 'John Henry. I am from County Down, in Ireland.' It was as much as William could do to restrain himself. But that ebbing life was before him, and checked him. There was his own wandering brother. God had made him a minister indeed,—had sent him to give the cup of cold water, and to get the assurance that the poor wandering orphan, whose heart had withered for want of human love, had been found of God, and been opened by the Divine tenderness.

"To carry the dying youth to his own camp-bed, make himself known gently, and tell him the story of Lizzie's departure, to nurse him and cheer him, to gaze on his features and trace the old lineaments, to read and pray with him, these were the occupations of the day and night that life, held back awhile from the grave by his coming, remained; and when he died his brother's arm was under his pillow; but, better still, the Eternal was his refuge, and underneath him the everlasting arm. Only one thing remains to be told. William has a firmer confidence than ever in a Father in heaven. A letter has been received from him by his sister, expressing a hope that she will go out to him when the war is over, and when he hopes to be a minister. The old man, to whom she has grown up as a daughter, has had it read to him times without number. He sees in it the clear working of his Father's hand, and takes comfort, in prospect of losing the child he trained for God, in saying that He will take care of her also. Nor is the good old man quite indifferent to the circumstances that William hopes to be a minister of his own church in America."

A Harvest Ripe.—Where are the Reapers?

STATION OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, KNOXVILLE, TENN.

REV. W. E. BOARDMAN,

General Secretary of the United States Christian Commission.

ONE of the requests of the Chairman of the Commission was, that I write you or himself often as convenient. When one gets into the work of the delegate and finds so much to do, he does not feel much like writing letters, except so far as absolute duty demands, or there is a fair prospect of enlisting the sympathies or material aid of those not informed as to the great blessing of the Christian Commission. I have not felt at liberty to take time to write to you, when perhaps I could not tell you anything new. But really there are new experiences all the while, new cases of thrilling interest all the while, every day,—all but every hour. Every feeling of a Christian heart becomes enlisted to lead these men to the heart of Christ the Saviour. In the hospitals, by the wayside, in the camp, barracks, or elsewhere, one meets such cases all but at every turn. After getting here, for example, I established a meeting at Camp Convalescent. After preaching, I asked those who were Christians to rise. Some twelve rose. I then asked those who wished to become Christians to rise. Some thirty rose. On last Thursday, at that same camp, when those present who wanted the immediate blessing of heaven upon their hearts, were asked to kneel, some one hundred and fifty of the two hundred knelt, and the rest, in spite of their being ashamed of Jesus, were anxious to become his friends. Last Saturday, a soldier called, who said he wished to see me. I took him aside. He said he had been very wicked. He wanted to change his course and give his heart to Christ. We knelt in prayer; he prayed and I prayed. He left in tears, I trust at the feet of Christ. Soon as he left another came, wanting a shirt, a minister's son. He was supplied, and spoken to about the garment that Christ supplies to sinful men. He left with the full resolve to be a Christian. I met four men bound for the cars going on front, on my way to a certain meeting. I asked them about their personal state before God, gave them Testaments, and pointed them to the promise of Christ in Matthew 11: 28, and implored Christ to give them rest. I expect to meet them in heaven. To-day, I was asked to call on two men who must soon

die. Neither was prepared; one I had seen before; the other a Catholic. Oh, the wisdom of God alone is sufficient to lead the mind to Christ! Two wounded men these. Christ lead them to his own heart! They die for their country. God bless them! Every day cases of this sort meet one. The gracious Spirit is moving upon every heart. They only want to be taught how to come to Christ. Your delegate only wishes he could multiply himself ten-fold, and do and pray, and point to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. The backslider is being reclaimed, and the sinner is coming to Christ. We want more laborers. Your excellent field agent here is troubled that more do not come. We are all troubled about it; we pray about it, think about it, dream about it. So much to do, so few to do it. If ministers at home only knew, they would surely come directly to Knoxville. They would not stop on the way to see sights, or to labor here awhile and there another while. No, no! If they only knew just the demand here, they could not rest till they got here. Two men leave us to-morrow for home, pleasant home. One has just come in the ten o'clock train. Thank God for that! the field is so white for the harvest. O do not forget this distant point! Send men and means. For this we pray, for this we look.

I am, dear sir, yours most truly,

HUGH McLEOD,

Delegate of the United States Christian Commission.

Great Benefits from Publications Distributed.

MANY a case of conversion has been reported to us, as having resulted from the reading of a single knapsack-book or tract, given to a soldier by the Commission.

At Camp Stoneman, for example, a delegate gave to a soldier "The Old Gentleman's Telescope." The soldier had been at the extreme front in the cavalry service, and had been without religious privileges from the beginning of the war.

He had as yet attended no meeting at the camp. No one had spoken to him about his salvation.

He took the "Telescope" to his tent, read it, was convinced, and led to Jesus. Sought the delegate and told him about it. The sole means of the work used by the Holy Spirit was this little book.

Many, many, have in this way been led to the Saviour, by the books, papers and tracts distributed by the Commission through its delegates and the chaplains of the army.

Many, many, have also been reclaimed, and brought to stand up anew for Jesus, in the panoply of his grace.

The following letter gives an instance which is quite remarkable in some of its features, though only a fair illustration, in the main one, of a man reclaimed, a soul saved from destruction.

Delicacy to the officer so signally benefited requires us to withhold names.

CAMP OF THE —— VOLS., NEAR CULPEPER COURT-HOUSE.

REV. W. E. BOARDMAN:

Dear Sir: It is very gratifying to me to be able to vouch for the following facts. An officer in our regiment, who years since was a minister of the Gospel, but who had forsaken the fountain of purity, has just been reclaimed.

Despite kindly admonitions, he for a year and a half has been foremost in scenes of conviviality, given to profanity, drinking, &c. From the Christian Commission I obtained a copy of the "Blood of Jesus," by Rev. William Reid. Feasting my own soul on its precious words, I baptized it with tears and prayers, and gave it to the officer, begging him to read and heed it.

That book saved a soul from death. The backslider is reclaimed, and publicly and privately tells what God has done for him. Perfectly consistent for weeks, I am sure God will keep him to the end. His only song is the blood of Jesus. He says, "When in past years I preached the word, had I known what I know now about the blood of Jesus, how much easier and more certainly could I have won souls to Christ!" Yesterday, to one of the most stringent temperance pledges he put his name: "—— ——, Lt. Col., in the strength of Jesus." So much for the transforming power of the Cross.

Your Brother in Christ,

F—— B—— R——,

Chaplain —— Vols.

The great want of the army to-day is reading matter, suitable in quality and sufficient in quantity.

The Christian Commission cannot command a tithe of the means required to furnish it.

DR. JOSEPH PATTERSON, TREASURER U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION. CR.

1863.			1863.		
January 28,	To balance on hand, as per 1st Annual report, ...	$673 09	December 31,	By cash paid for hospital supplies during 1863, ...	$75,653 61
December 31,	Cash from various Army Committees, in 1863, as per tabular statement, .	100,797 67	" "	By cash paid for publications during 1863, ...	58,230 93
" "	Cash from various local committees, church collections, individual subscriptions, &c., ...	120,743 91	" "	By cash paid for chapels, tents, wagons, &c., ...	9,592 56
			" "	By cash paid drafts and remitted to agencies, for carrying on the work in the field, ...	10,454 37
			" "	By cash paid delegates' expenses and outfits, ...	9,968 05
			" "	By cash paid for freight, drayage, labor, &c., ...	4,440 59
			" "	By cash paid salaries at Central Office, and permanent agents in field, .	4,958 33
			" "	By cash paid incidental expenses, postage, advertising, &c., ...	2,949 79
			" "	By cash paid expenses of meetings and agents, ...	2,370 82
			" "	By counterfeit and broken bank notes, ...	48 21
			" "	By balance, ...	43,547 41
		$222,214 67			$222,214 67
1864. January 1,	To balance, ...	$43,547 41			

We have employed a competent accountant, in whom we have entire confidence, to examine the above account, and compare all payments with the vouchers, and we are entirely satisfied that it is correct, he having, after examination, reported it so.

Signed, JOHN P. CROZER, CHAS. DEMOND. } Auditors.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27, 1864.

N. B. This account embraces the year 1863 only. For total cash receipts, see page 272.

Cash Receipts and Expenditures of Central Office, and Branches having a local field to support.

NAME.	Total receipts, 1863, and balance on hand, 1862.	Expended by Committees, 1863.	Remitted to, and purchases on account of Central Office.	Balance on hand Dec. 31., 1863.
Portland. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., .	$3,201 08	$214 31	$2,342 78	$643 99
Boston, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., .	78,220 34	9,121 22	64,576 85	4,522 27
New York, N. Y. Committee, ...	58,542 49	28,373 40	14,002 41	16,166 68
Buffalo, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., .	3,361 21	284 53	1,650 00	1,426 68
Ladies' Christian Commission, .	4,168 40	1,593 57	1,600 00	974 83
Philadelphia, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., ...	9,302 01	1,945 49	7,176 84	179 68
Baltimore, Committee of Maryland, .	14,600 76	13,218 63		1,382 13
Harrisburg, Army Committee Y. M. C. A., ...	2,376 51	247 36	2,129 15	
Pittsburg, Committee of Western Penna.,	22,732 56	13,684 13	1,481 05	7,567 38
Cincinnati, Cincinnati Branch U. S. C. C., .	21,010 22	6,781 65	1,286 91	12,941 66
Louisville, Kentucky Branch U. S. C. C.,	436 95	236 90		200 05
Indianapolis, Indiana Branch U. S. C. C.,	703 84	82 33		621 51
Peoria, Army Committee Y. M. C. A.,	1,654 15	881 35		772 80
Chicago, N. Western Branch U. S. C. C.,	8,182 29	5,806 14	2,003 37	372 78
Detroit, Army Committee, . . .	3,478 75	500 52	2,300 00	678 23
St. Louis, St. Louis Branch U. S. C. C.,	5,108 81	3,572 49	506 39	1,029 93
	$236,822 29	$86,544 02	$100,797 67	$49,480 60
Central Office at Philadelphia. Receipts as per published acknowledgments, $222,214 67 Less am't credited to Local Com'tte, 100,797 67	121,417 00	$178,667 26		43,547 41
Total for 1863, .	$358,239 29	$265,211 28		$93,028 01
Total for 1862, .	40,160 29	40,160 29		
Total for 1862 and '63,	$398,399 58	$305,371 57		

PACKAGES SHIPPED, STORES DONATED, AND VALUE OF SAME, WITH NUMBER OF DELEGATES SENT.

NAME.	Boxes shipped to field, or distributed at home.	Boxes donated.	Value of donated Boxes.	Delegates sent.
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AT PHILADELPHIA,		3,292	$163,610 24	514
Hospital stores, 5,074				
Publications, 1,617	6,691			
PORTLAND. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., ...	25	130	300 00	
BOSTON. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., ...	573	1,135	85,125 00	193
NEW YORK. N. Y. Committee U. S. C. C., ...				63
BUFFALO. Ladies' Christian Commission, ...		278	5,155 04	3
BALTIMORE. Committee of Maryland, ...	1,575	1,045	25,000 00	215
GETTYSBURG, ...	1,057	1,057	26,130 00	
WASHINGTON, ...	548	548	12,040 00	
HARRISBURG. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., . . .	65	65	2,600 00	3
PITTSBURG. Committee of Western Pennsylvania, . .	836	681	45,708 79	73
CINCINNATI. Cincinnati Branch U. S. C. C., ...	400	325	14,000 00	48
LOUISVILLE. Kentucky Branch U. S. C. C., ...	328	225	1,000 00	5
INDIANAPOLIS. Indiana Branch U. S. C. C., . .	4			4
PEORIA. Army Committee Y. M. C. A., ...	154	158	3,100 00	6
CHICAGO. N. W. Branch U. S. C. C., ...	142	112	1,000 00	41
DETROIT. Army Committee, .	239	239	1,000 00	9
ST. LOUIS. St. Louis Branch U. S. C. C., ...	11	11	60 00	30
Total for 1863, .	12,648	9,301	$385,829 07	1207
Total for 1862, .	3,691	2,932	142,150 00	356
Total for 1862 and 1863, .	16,339	12,233	$527,979 07	1563

Publications Distributed by Branch and Central Offices.

Name of Committee.	Copies of Scriptures.	Hymn and Psalm Books.	Knapsack Books.	Library Books.	Magazines and Pamphlets	Religious Newspapers.	Pages of Tracts.	Silent Comforter.
Central Office at Philadelphia,	392,145	202,858	939,930	16,904	40,910	2,198,138	6,609,752	3,285
Boston,								
Army Committee Y. M. C. A.,	1,480	25,000	20,000	500		87,000	287,321	
New York,								
New York Committee U. S. C. C.,	29,870	32,458	143,276	7,633	11,609	182,664	2,150,000	
Buffalo,					2,700	13,650		
Philadelphia,								
Army Committee Y. M. C. A.,		1,506	1,483	1,824		38,677	373,820	
Baltimore,								
Committee of Maryland,	1,900	600	800	360	400	5,000	500,000	
Pittsburg,								
Committee of Western Pennsylvania,	861	4,570	61,420	3,800	47,240	56,275	15,040	
Cincinnati,								
Cincinnati Branch U. S. C. C.,	15,000	30,000	65,000	1,500	5,500	200,000	750,000	
Louisville,								
Kentucky Branch U. S. C. C.,	10,000	500	800	1,000	1,000		130,000	
Indianapolis,								
Indiana Branch U. S. C. C.,	1,373	350	1,641		140	450	7,020	
Peoria,								
Army Committee Y. M. C. A.,	12,000	11,500						
Chicago,								
N. W. Branch U. S. C. C.,		60,000	17,500	1,500	4,700	70,000	300,000	
St. Louis,								
St. Louis Branch U. S. C. C.,	1,086	2,517	2,741	4,692	6,293	79,615	853,769	
Total for 1863,	465,715	371,859	1,254,591	39,713	120,492	2,931,469	11,976,722	3,285
Distributed in 1862,	102,560	130,697	115,757	3,450	34,653	384,781	10,953,706	830
Total for 1862 and 1863,	568,275	502,556	1,370,348	43,163	155,145	3,316,250	22,930,428	4,115

SUMMARY OF VALUE OF WORK FOR 1862 AND 1863.

1863.		
Cash receipts at Central and Branch Offices, ...	$358,239 29	
Value of stores donated, . .	385,829 07	
" " Delegates services, . .	72,420 00	
" " Scriptures from American Bible Society, . .	45,071 50	
" " Scriptures from British and Foreign Bible Society, .	1,677 79	
" " Railroad facilities, . .	44,210 00	
" " Telegraph " . .	9,390 00	$916,837 65
1862.		
Cash receipts at Central and Branch Offices, ...	40,160 29	
Value of stores donated, . .	142,150 00	
" " Delegates services, . .	21,360 00	
" " Railroad facilities, . .	13,680 00	
" " Telegraph " . .	3,650 00	
" " Scriptures donated by the American Bible Society,	10,256 00	231,256 29
Total for 1863 and 1862, .		$1,148,093 94

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS

OF $50 AND UPWARDS EACH, FROM PLACES NOT NAMED IN THE TABLE ON PAGE 272, BUT INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL ITEM OF RECEIPTS AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE, PARTICULARS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE PAPERS.

MAINE.

Bangor,	$1,388 01	Dover,	$66 00
Brunswick,	71 45		

MASSACHUSETTS.

Fairhaven,	$97 66	Lawrence,	$55 00
Florence,	50 00	Monson,	100 00
Framingham,	115 00	Northampton,	367 50
Fitchburg,	900 00	New Bedford,	57 50

RHODE ISLAND.

Bristol,	$100 00	Providence,	$6,854 09
Newport,	486 00		

CONNECTICUT.

Fairfield,	$68 00	Waterbury,	$64 26
New London,	148 50	Windsor,	167 17
Thompsonville,	150 00		

NEW YORK.

Albany,	$156 89	Lansingburg,	$107 18
Albion,	93 03	Middletown,	52 00
Brooklyn,	272 35	Norwich,	76 03
Duanesburg,	173 28	Ogdensburg,	120 00
Trumansburg,	95 93	Rochester,	1,904 25
Fishkill Landing,	100 00	Sing Sing,	94 32
Homer,	90 00	Schenectady,	107 25
Kinderhook,	52 43	Troy,	1,535 00
Leroy,	249 00	Wassaic,	100 00

NEW JERSEY.

Allentown,	$57 00	Lawrenceville,	$110 64
Burlington,	163 32	Lambertville,	804 01
Bloomfield,	77 10	Mount Holly,	52 60
Belvidere,	183 00	Montelan,	212 00
Blawenburg,	85 60	Newark,	2,140 28
Beverly,	65 72	Newton,	227 50
Camden,	88 70	New Brunswick,	384 02
Clinton,	77 47	Paterson,	57 56
Cranberry,	409 88	Paulesbury,	200 00
Cape May,	90 00	Princeton,	351 20
Dewfield,	101 00	Pennington,	126 05
Elizabeth,	72 15	Phillipsburg,	181 84
Freehold,	77 00	Penn's Grove,	100 31
Flemington,	63 00	Salem,	153 79
Hightstown,	140 27	Trenton,	907 61
Jersey City,	406 41	Titusville,	294 00

PENNSYLVANIA.

Alexandria,	$125 00	Mechanicsburg,	$125 00
Abington,	71 05	Muncy,	181 60
Blairsville,	200 00	Middletown,	91 71
Bellville,	123 00	Manayunk,	222 80
Baileyville,	69 25	Media,	82 55
Bloomsburg,	144 40	McConnelsburg,	50 25
Bristol,	55 10	Mercersburg,	281 00
Bethlehem,	70 00	Milton,	77 45
Big Spring,	54 27	Millerstown,	156 10
Chartiers,	431 45	Norristown,	391 23
Cochranville,	56 15	New Bedford,	57 05
Cheltenham,	168 00	Newville,	52 50
Columbia,	500 00	Northeast,	69 00
Cressona,	100 00	Oxford,	140 50
Chambersburg,	284 02	Pottsville,	2,485 00
Curwensville,	600 00	Paxton,	110 00
Carlisle,	107 15	Pottstown,	206 50
Coatesville,	217 65	Parksburg,	186 00
Delaware Co.,	182 58	Pequa,	115 75
Doylestown,	55 00	Reading,	440 75
Drumore Township,	75 00	South Buffalo,	141 15
Elkland,	50 00	Shippensburg,	132 00
Easton,	234 35	Scranton,	497 83
Erie,	61 10	Towanda,	80 00
Forks Brandywine,	224 68	Uniontown,	55 00

Frankford,	80 00	Uwchland,	50 75
Fayette,	75 00	Waynesburg,	64 70
Graysville,	100 00	West Alexander,	752 73
Germantown,	910 10	West Chester,	161 50
Gettysburg,	829 44	Wilkesbarre,	390 65
Greencastle,	170 50	Wallace,	81 65
Honesdale,	60 00	Westmoreland Coal Co.,	200 00
Hanover,	152 16	Williamstown,	106 00
Holmesburg,	410 30	Wyalusing,	64 05
Huntingdon,	206 00	Washington,	2,306 72
Kensington,	359 60	Williamsport,	142 45
Kittaning,	200 00	Wrightsville,	87 75
Lancaster,	141 70	Warren,	50 00
Lewistown,	79 15	York,	491 69

DELAWARE.

Christiana,	$55 26	Smyrna,	$50 00
Delaware City,	76 25	Wilmington,	1,318 03

OHIO.

Bloomingburg,	$100 00	Hillsborough,	$240 00
Chillicothe,	210 80	Steubenville,	187 66
Circleville,	100 00	Warren,	55 00
Cumberland,	82 00	Wooster,	50 00

WISCONSIN.

Madison, . . $197 50

VIRGINIA.

Wheeling, . . . $1,062 07

TENNESSEE.

Memphis,	$130 00	Nashville,	$67 35

INDEX.

BRANCHES AND ARMY COMMITTEES, 1.
SUCCESS OF THE YEAR, 9.
FAVOR OF GOD AND THE PEOPLE, 9
REMARKABLE CHARACTER OF THE WORK, 9.
GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE YEAR, 12.
NECESSITY FOR THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, 13
PRINCIPLES OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.
1. Catholicity, 15. 2. Nationality, 15. 3. Voluntariness, 16. 4. Combination of Benefits for Body and Soul, 16. 5. Reliance upon unpaid Delegates, 17. 6. Personal Distribution with Personal Ministration, 17. 7. Co-operation: 1. With Chaplains, 19. 2. With Surgeons, Officers, and Christian Men, 20. 8. Respect for Authorities, 21.
SOURCES AND CENTRES OF SUPPLY.
No Paid Agency, 22. Meetings, Thanksgiving Day Contributions, Subscriptions on Change, Boston, 23. Providence, Pottsville, &c., Hotels, 24. Telegraph Companies, Railroad Companies, 25. American Bible Society, 25.
DIVISION OF THE FIELD.
New York Branch, 26. Maryland Branch, 26. Washington, 27. Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Louisville, 27. St. Louis, Chicago, Peoria, Detroit, Milwaukie, 28. Boston, 28.
FIELD ORGANIZATIONS.
1. Field Agencies, Army of the Potomac, 29. Army of the Cumberland, 29. Army of the Ohio, 29. Mississippi, 29. Missouri, 30. 2. Stations, 30. Gettysburg, 30.
WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.
January, 1863, 33. Windmill Point Hospital, 35. Terrible Sufferings, Bread to the Hungry, Fuel, Stimulants, Clothing, 35. Spiritual Ministrations, 36. Stations at Aquia, Belle Plain, White Oak Church, Falmouth Depot, Falmouth Village, and Stoneman's Siding, 37. Mt. Zion, 38. Assault of Fredericksburg, 39. Battle of Chancellorsville, 39. Field Hospitals, 40. Supplies, Libraries, Letters, 41. Precious Services, 42. Sudden Movement, Two Hours only to prepare for the March to meet Lee at Gettysburg, 42. Fairfax, A Night spent in feeding Six Hundred sick and wounded, from Aldie, 43. Feeding the suffering Cavalrymen, 44. Gettysburg, 44. Army again in Virginia, 45. Capture and Recapture of C. C. Team, Driver, and Delegate, 45. Army Work, 45. Culpeper, 46. Race for Centreville Heights, 47. Crossing the Rapidan, 47. Brandy Station, 48. Fight of Third Corps, 48. Relief of Six Hundred Wounded, 48. March, Halt, and Night Work for the Wounded, 49. Cruel March, Return to Brandy Station, 49. Close of the Year, 50. Testimony of Dr. Cady, Medical Director, 51. Letter of General Meade, Commanding, 52.
PENNSYLVANIA INVASION.
HARRISBURG, 53. TESTIMONY: Colonel Ramsey, 55. Major Ralston, 56. Governor Curtin, 56. Sergeant Amidon, 57. CARLISLE. Night Attack, 57. Care of the Wounded, 58. Testimony of Dr. Neill, Medical Director, 58. GETTYSBURG. Account of Work in the Town preceding and during the Battle, by R. G. McCreary, Esq., 59. Statistics of the Battle, 66. Advance of the Army, few left to care for the Wounded, 67. Delegates on the Field during the Fight, 67. Arrival of other Delegates after the Battle, 67. Loads of Provisions from the Country, 68. Storehouses Occupied, 68. Appearance of the Town, 68. Work during the Early Days

after the Battle, 69. C. C. Stations at each Corps Field Hospital, 69. Second Corps Field Hospital, 70. Testimony of Dr. McAbee, Surgeon in Charge, 72. First Corps Field Hospital, 70. Hospital in Town, 73. Barn, Third Corps Hospital, 75. Fifth Corps Field Hospital, 75. Sixth Corps Field Hospital, 76. Eleventh Corps Field Hospital, 76. Cashtown Road, 78. 2500 boxes, &c., distributed, worth $75,000, 79. Kindness of Citizens, 81. Lives Saved and Souls Converted, 82. TESTIMONY: Rev. Dr. Schaffer, 82. Rev. Dr. Baugher, 82. Professor Stoever, 83. Work in General Field Hospital, 84. Thanks of Surgeon-General Hammond, 86 and 87. Report of Medical Inspector U. S. A., Dr. Cuyler, 87. Testimony of all the Surgeons, Second Corps Hospital, 88. Testimony in First Corps Hospital, 88. Two hundred and eighty Soldiers, 89.

WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

Battle of Murfreesboro' or Stone River, 93. Organization of Field Agency, 95. Field, its Wants, 95. Great Religious Work, 97. Extensive Revival, 99. Army moves, 99. Marches and Stations to Chattanooga, 100. Battle of Chickamauga, and Capture of Rev. John Hussey, 101. Work along the Railroad, 102. Feeding the Wounded at Stevenson, 102. Soldiers Reminiscences, 104. Bridgeport, Headquarters of General Howard, 105. Embarrassments for Transportation, 106. Battle of Chattanooga, 107. Work of Delegates, 108. Night Expedition relieving Wounded from Ringgold, 108. Cowan, 109. Nashville, 111. Map, 113. Special Order of General Grant, 114. Soldier's Testimony, 116. Mr. Duffield's Letter, 119.

WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE OHIO.

Welcome given the Delegates by General Burnside, 121. Guerrilla Warfare, 121. Camp Nelson, 122. Glasgow, 124. Camp Dennison, 124. Advance to East Tennessee, 125. General Burnside's Orders, 126.

WORK IN THE ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE.

First Vicksburg Campaign, 127. Field assigned to the Western Branches, 129. Station at Memphis, 129. Statement of Mr. K. A. Burnell, 130. Speech of Colonel Moore, 137.

WORK AMONGST THE REBEL PRISONERS AT FORT DELAWARE.

Visits and Labors of Delegates, 141. Letter of Chaplain Paddock, 142. Testimony of Prisoners, 144.

RELIEF OF UNION PRISONERS IN RICHMOND.

Intelligence of Capture of Delegates—Inquiry made, 145. Testimony from Johnson's Island, 146. First Shipment, 147. Letter from Major Mulford, 147. One Day's Shipment, 149. Way closed, 150.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Boston, 151. Philadelphia, 154. Baltimore, 157. Annapolis Agency, 171. Washington, D. C., 176. Harrisburg, Pa., 190. Pittsburg, 192. Cincinnati, Ohio, 195. Louisville, Ky., 200. St. Louis, 206. Peoria, 213. Chicago, 218. Buffalo, 220. Indianapolis, 223. Detroit, 224. New York, 225.

ARMY STATIONS, 233.

THE CENTRAL OFFICE, 237.

SELECTIONS OF PAPERS, INCIDENTS, ETC, 243.

TABULAR STATEMENTS.

Treasurer's Account, 271. Cash Receipts, &c., 272. Stores and Delegates, 273. Publications, 274. Summary of Value of Work, 275.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS (Supplementary to page 272), 275.

LITTLE LIZZIE'S LETTER.

PHILADELPHIA, April 17, 1863.

MY DEAR SOLDIER:

I send you a little Testament. I am a little girl seven years old. I want to do something for the soldiers who do so much for us; so I have saved my pocket-money to send you this. Although I have never seen you, I intend to begin to pray that God will make and keep you good. Oh, how sorry I am that you have to leave your dear mother. Did she cry when you bade her good-bye? Don't you often think of her at night, when you are going to bed? Do you kneel down and say your prayers? If I were you, I would not care if the other soldiers did laugh; God will smile upon you. I am sorry, very sorry that you are sick. I wish that I could go to nurse you. I could bathe your head, and read to you. Do you know the hymn,

"There is a happy land?"

I hope you will go to that land when you die. But remember, I will pray that you may get well again.

When you are able to sit up, I wish you to write to me, and tell me all your troubles.

Inclosed you will find a postage stamp. I live at No. —— North Ninth Street.

Good-bye. Your friend,

LIZZIE S——.

This letter was sent by a little girl seven years of age, with a Testament, to "some sick soldier" in the hospital at Nashville, and given by a delegate of the United States Christian Commission to the first soldier in the Convalescent Ward in Hospital No. 8 who rose to request prayer for his salvation, in the first meeting there after the precious Testament and letter arrived at Nashville. A few days after, he wrote to Lizzie the following reply:

NASHVILLE, TENN., April 24, 1863.

DEAR SISTER LIZZIE:

I received your kind letter from Mr. C. I. M. A beautiful present indeed, and I trust it will be one of the means of converting others, as well as the receiver. May God bless the giver. You have done a good work. Continue to pray, dear sister, and God will answer you. He says so in his word.

My dear mother is in the grave. It is nearly eleven years since she died; but she died happy, and I trust I shall meet her in heaven. I will try and pray for myself. Have been in the hospital four months, but am now nearly well; will be able to join my regiment to face the enemy; and if I should fall on the battle-field, I may have the blessed assurance of meeting my Saviour in peace.

Yes, "there is a happy land." May we meet in that happy land. I do not think that my fellow-soldiers will deter me from serving my Master. There are many others here that his Spirit is striving with.

I expect to go home to see my dear friends once more. Am very thankful that the privilege is granted, and I trust we shall have a happy meeting. Dear Lizzie, I must close. May God bless you, is my prayer. Write me again.

Address your friend,

S—— L—— N——,

Fourth Mich. Cavalry, Nashville, Tenn.

There is evidence that S—— L—— N—— was truly converted by means of Lizzie's letter, and is a most zealous and useful Christian soldier. It is suggested that children make for the soldiers the little article called "housewives," and with the pins, needles, thread, buttons, &c., put also in them a kind letter to a soldier, and send them with prayer, to George H. Stuart, Chairman United States Christian Commission, 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia.

FORM OF CONSTITUTION

FOR

LADIES' CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS,

WITH SUGGESTIONS.

To carry out the National plan of Ladies' Christian Commissions fully, it will be necessary, 1. To form a Commission in each separate congregation. 2. To have each Commission directly auxiliary to the United States Christian Commission, or some one of its branches. 3. To have the organization reported in full to the United States Christian Commission, or the Branch with which the Ladies' Commission connects itself, together with the name of the *Ladies' Commission* and the *names of its officers.* 4. To have the amount paid in for admission fees paid over directly to the United States Christian Commission, or the Branch to which the Ladies' Commission attaches itself as auxiliary. If money is needed for the purchase of materials to make up, or for carrying on the work in the locality where the Ladies' Commission is situated, let it be secured in some other way, so as to leave the general *membership fund* unreduced. The Ladies' Christian Commissions should not only swell this fund as largely as possible, but have full credit for it in the reports of the United States Christian Commission, and in the history of the day.

In carrying out this plan it is not at all necessary that those who become members of a Ladies' Christian Commission should cease to be members of any other association in the same church or community, designed to benefit the soldier either through the United States Christian Commission, or any other agency in the field. It is not necessary that a Ladies' Christian Commission should in every case be a society for gathering stores, or making up garments, however desirable that might be in itself. Two great objects will be attained by getting all to become members,—the *membership fund* will be augmented by the fees paid in, and all will be combined in the great National Christian Commission. If to these the further benefit can be added of having stores gathered and garments prepared, that will be well; but although important it is not indispensable. Let every church organize, and every member of the congregation join. And then, whatever else can be done will be so much gained.

Much, however, may be done by the ladies in addition to the means they gather by membership fees and the interest they enlist, by combining great numbers in the Commission. They may encourage their ministers in the successful establishment of monthly soldiers' meetings with monthly collections, as proposed by the United States Christian Commission. They may meet and make up clothing, &c., for the soldiers. They may gather in stores, and they may solicit and secure contributions in addition to the fees of those who become members. They may secure for the great work of the United States Christian Commission besides the "Membership Fund," another, possibly as large, to be known as the "Donation Fund," both of which, in the reports and history of the benevolence called forth by the sad exigencies of this terrible war, will be known distinctively as part of what has been done by woman.

The following Form is submitted:

Ladies' Christian Commission of
Auxiliary to the United States Christian Commission for the Army and Navy.

Article I. The officers of this Commission shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, chosen annually from the ladies of the congregation, but to hold office until others shall be elected.

Article II. Any member of the congregation, man, woman, or child, may become a member of this Commission by the payment of *One Dollar* annually into its treasury.

Article III. All money received for membership fees shall be paid over to the United States Christian Commission, for its general work, and go into a national "Membership Fund."

Article IV. All moneys received by this Commission in contributions over and above membership fees, and from every other source, shall, after making therefrom all necessary purchases, and defraying needful expenses, be paid over to the United States Christian Commission for the general work, and go toward another national fund to be known as the "Donation Fund."

Article V. An annual meeting shall be held on the of , of which notice shall be given at some previous public meeting of the congregation. Full reports of the affairs of this Commission shall be made by the Secretary and Treasurer, and an election of officers shall be held at each annual meeting.

Article VI. This constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting, provided public notice is given at the time the notice of the meeting is given, that such alteration or amendment will be proposed.

No. 1320 Sect. N Shelf 2

CONTENTS

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All good charges
paid on the ristian
Commission

MONEY, awise.
The Com t when
needed mos

Cotton sh rts and
drawers (wi drawers
(to wear in- h thick
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culture, suc
STATION

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Collateral Lincoln Library

Pack in b t be so
large that themselves. Never pack perishable articles, such as oranges, lemons, bread, cakes, nor jars of jellies and jams, with other goods. Tin cans should be soldered; all other modes fail. Stone jars should be corked and firmly bound with oiled linen or leather over the cork, and packed closely in sawdust or hay, in boxes never exceeding a dozen and a half in a box, and nailed strongly, to bear rough handling. Jellies in tumblers, covered with paper, and wines, cordials, &c., in bottles, with paper or other poor stoppers, are liable to spill out, and if packed with other things, sure to injure them.

HOW TO MARK.

Mark with paint or ink on the boards,—cards rub off,—in plain letters and figures: On one corner, the number of the box according to the number sent by you in all, numbering your first box *1, your second *2, your third *3, and so on from the first sent to the last. On another corner, mark each box as from your Society, giving the name, and conspicuously also mark as follows: "GEORGE H. STUART, Chairman Christian Commission, 11 Bank Street, Philadelphia," or whatever other name and place you wish to send it to.

To secure acknowledgments, and to save trouble, also send an invoice or list by mail, on paper, the common letter sheet size, written only on one side, specifying each box or barrel by number, and giving the contents of each by itself. Give your own name and post-office in full, with the name of your State. Place also another list or invoice of the same kind in the box under the lid, and if with this last you place also an envelope addressed to yourself, with a postage stamp upon it, you may sometimes,—not always,—have it returned to you through the mail, with the signature of the delegate, and the name of the hospital camp where he distributed it.

Write plain. Above all, write your own name distinctly, and to save embarrassment, give your address in full, especially whether Miss or Mrs. or Rev.

Money should be sent to JOSEPH PATTERSON, Esq., Treasurer, at Western Bank, Philadelphia.

71.2009 084-07

Communications and Contributions

[For the UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION may be sent to any of the following places, as may be most convenient, addressed to the persons designated.]

PHILADELPHIA.—Letters to Rev. W. E. Boardman, 11 Bank Street; money to Joseph Patterson, at the Western Bank; stores to George H. Stuart, 11 Bank Street.

NEW YORK.—Letters and supplies to Nathan Bishop, 30 Bible House; money to James M. Brown, 59 Wall Street.

BROOKLYN.—Communications to Rev. J. B. Waterbury, D.D; contributions to Samuel B. Caldwell.

BOSTON.—Letters to Charles Demond, 4 Court Street; money to Joseph Storey, 112 Tremont Street; stores to L. P. Rowland, Tremont Temple.

PITTSBURG.—Letters to Robert C. Totten; money to Joseph Albree, 71 Wood Street; stores to W. P. Weyman, 79 Smithfield Street.

CINCINNATI.—Letters to Rev. J. F. Marlay; money to W. T. Perkins, 17 West Third Street; supplies to A. E. Chamberlain, Rooms Christian Commission, 51 Vine Street.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—Letters to C. N. Todd; money to James M. Ray; supplies to G. W Clippinger.

CHICAGO.—Letters to B. F. Jacobs, P. O. Box 5801; money to John V. Farwell; supplies to Rooms Young Men's Christian Association, Methodist Church Block.

ST. LOUIS.—Letters to J. H. Parsons *Daily Union* office; money to Edward Ticknor; supplies to Isaac S. Smyth, Christian Commission office, under Lindell Hotel.

DETROIT.—Communications to Charles F. Clarke; money to Caleb Ives, and supplies to E. C. Walker.

BALTIMORE.—Letters to Rev. J. McJilton; money to Rev. George P. Hays; stores to G. S. Griffith, 77 West Baltimore Street.

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Communications, money, and supplies to John D. Hill, M.D.

TROY, N. Y.—Letters, money, and supplies to Charles P. Hartt.

HARRISBURG, PA.—Communications, money, and supplies to Rev. T. H. Robinson.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—Communications, money, and supplies to Oliver D. Grosvenor.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Communications, money, and supplies to William Ballantyne, 498 Seventh Street, or Rev. S. L. Bowler, 500 H Street.

LOUISVILLE, KY.—Communications, money, and supplies to J. Edward Hardy, care of J. G. Dodge & Co., 325 Main Street.

PEORIA, ILL.—Communications, money, and supplies to William Reynolds.

FREDERICK, MD.—Communications, money, and supplies to Gideon Bantz.

HAGERSTOWN, MD.—Communications, money, and supplies to Rev. Mr. Evans.